竹内未来

パスタに入れた白ワインで酔っぱらうほどの下戸です。
飲みの席は大好きですし、シラフでカラオケとか全然盛り上がれますが、やはり美味しそうにお酒を飲む人に憧れます。人生の半分くらい損してる気がする……!!

竹内未来の好評既刊

プリンセス・コミックス

―新城未明の宝石事件簿―賢者は眠る①②巻

竹内未来原作 絶対服従 ―5つの恋にとらわれる―

女王様の犬 全⑪巻

PRINCESS COMICS

縛り屋小町

7

竹内未来

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プリンセス・コミックス

プリンセス・コミックス

王家の紋章[1～54巻]	細川智栄子
連載30周年記念【王家の紋章】公式ファンブック	細川智栄子
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アルカサルー王城ー[全13巻]	青池保子
アルカサルー王城ー外伝[1巻]	青池保子
妖精国の騎士[全5巻]	中山星香
妖精国の騎士 Ballad	中山星香
花冠の竜の姫君[1～3巻]	中山星香
縛り屋小町[1～7巻]	竹内未来
中国ふしぎ発酵 黄金の石榴	長池とも子
北宋風雲伝[全16巻]	滝口琳々
悲歌-élégie- 双と翼番外編!	木原敏江
君は僕の虜なれ[1～3巻]	都筑せつり
楽園のトリル[1～7巻]	藤田麻貴
BUD BOY 番外編 空心編	市東亮子
BUD BOY 番外編 春指南	市東亮子
コルセットに翼[1～5巻]	もとなおこ
狐隠れの君	山田圭子
平安ラブロマン(1) 此の花選び	河村恵利
放課後保健室[全10巻]	水城せとな
黒執飛アリス[1～2巻]	水城せとな
アリーズ1～獅る星座宮～[1～6巻]	冬木るりか
カンタレラ[1～10巻]	氷栗 優
サンエヴリンの魔女[全2巻]	征矢友花
よかおなご入門	穂月想多
ドラゴン★ガール[全5巻]	藤枝とおる
タブロウゲート[1～4巻]	鈴木理華
黄昏の楽園[1～10巻]	伊庭竹緒
12の月のめぐる間に[全4巻]	吉川うたた
究極ヴィーナス[1～8巻]	しげまつ貴子
チキンパーティー[全3巻]	金田一蓮十郎
薬師アルジャン[1～10巻]	山下友美
アオハルッ![全3巻]	みもり
シノビライフ[1～8巻]	こなみ詔子
キルトS[1～6巻]	高橋美由紀
アンニュイちゃん	元田 桃
天の竜*地の桜[全3巻]	すもも ももも
Oh！ myプリンス[全3巻]	武藤 啓
キウイケツキ ドラキウイラ	くろだ美里
ケイコク～世界を壊す恋～[1～2巻]	橋本教子
秘密のエトワール[1巻]	宇野紗菜
幻妖綺譚 しろがねの君	もとむらえり
神曲奏界ポリフォニカ エクリプス[1巻] 原作:高殿円・漫画:藤丘ようこ	

* E/N: This page was suppose to be included in the last chapter, for the end of volume 5 but somehow it was left out.

OFF RECORDING

HELLO EVERYONE! THANK YOU FOR READING VOLUME SIX OF SHIBARIYA KOMACHI! UH... THIS TIME, THERE ARE A FEW CHARACTERS WHO WERE IN A GOOD SITUATION, BUT THEN IT SHIFTED TO SCENES OF BLOODSHED... EVERYONE'S STILL OKAY, RIGHT? CAN YOU GUYS ACCEPT THIS? EVEN THOUGH I LIKE A MIX OF HUMOR AND EXCITEMENT IN DRAMAS, I ALSO REALLY LIKE THE KIND OF STORIES THAT ARE FILLED WITH LOVE AFFAIRS.

20TH BINDING: YAE-SAN ENTERS NIRVANA. ALTHOUGH, TO BE HONEST, I FEEL THAT THE BURNING OF THE SMALL PALACE HAS TO DO WITH AKEO.

21ST BINDING: THE EVIL MASTERMIND BEHIND THE SCENES FINALLY APPEARS. IN THE FIRST HALF, HE HID HIS TRUE IDENTITY... BECAUSE HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE AKEO. IT WAS AS IF AKEO WAS "ACTING INNOCENT" SO I FELT A SLIGHT CHILL WHEN DRAWING THIS CHARACTER. COMPARED TO THE VERY BEGINNING, TSUNA HAS BECOME MORE HARD-WORKING. BUT HIS EFFORTS WERE NOT RECOGNIZED BY AKEO. THIS KIND OF PHENOMENON IS CALLED "PREACHING TO DEAF EARS". (T/N: IT MEANS A WASTE OF TIME AND ENERGY ON SOMEONE WHO CAN'T APPRECIATE THE ACTION'S VALUE)

22ND BINDING: AKEO ENTERS NIRVANA. I SEEM TO UKE EVIL NATURES IN YOUTHS. FOR THE FORESHADOWING OF DEATH, USUALLY THERE'D BE THE SETUP WHERE AKEO WOULD SAY THINGS LIKE "WAIT UNTIL WE LEAVE THE SMALL PALACE, THEN I'LL TELL YOU THE ENTIRE TRUTH" OR "MY CHILD IS ABOUT TO BE BORN..." BUT BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH PAGES, IT GOT CUT. BESIDES, THE LATTER PHRASE IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE (LAUGH).

23RD BINDING: THE CHAPTER DEALING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE SMALL PALACE (LAUGH). BECAUSE CHIKO'S A STRONG CHILD. HER STATE OF DEPRESSION ON THE CONTRARY WAS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO DRAW, OR I SHOULD SAY, AS I WAS DRAWING THIS CHAPTER, I SUDDENLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL MY TEARS AND BECAME VERY SAD, AND SO IN THE END, I BECAME VERY MOODY, AS EXPECTED. I WAS INFLUENCED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER'S MOOD... (SOB). I RACKED MY BRAIN OVER WHAT INGREDIENTS WOULD BE PUT INSIDE THE RICE BALL THAT TSUNA MADE, AND AS A RESULT, CONSULTED WITH A FRIEND ABOUT FINDING AN INGREDIENT THAT IS "RARE BUT ALSO IMPRESSIONABLE AND EDIBLE." AFTER A LONG DISCUSSION, NONE OF IT WAS EVEN USED IN THE STORY... ANOTHER SCREENWRITING FAILURE (LAUGH).

THAT'S ABOUT IT. IN TERMS OF CONTEXT, VOLUME 6 HAS STEADILY REACHED THE CLIMAX. BECAUSE OF THE DRASTIC TURN IN THE STORYLINE, THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE WHO STARTED ASKING, "IS THE STORY ENDING SOON?" BASED ON THE CONTENT SO FAR, WE ARE FINALLY REACHING THE SECOND HALF. FOLLOWING THIS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FORGE AHEAD TOWARDS THE ENDING. ALTHOUGH, THIS WILL STILL DEPEND ON THE SUPPORT OF THE READERS" (LAUGH) OF COURSE. BECAUSE I WANT EVERYONE TO READ UNTIL THE VERY END. I'LL DEFINITELY WORK VERY HARD!

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF SHIBARIYA KOMACHI... JUST WHO IS THAT PERSON WHO APPEARED AT THE END OF THIS VOLUME AND LOOKS LIKE AKEO? (BACK TO WHAT I WAS SAYING...) SINCE THE RED THREAD HAS SNAPPED AND NOW ONLY THREE THREADS REMAIN. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "GOSHIKI NO ITO" FROM NOW ON? WILL CHIKO REVERT TO HER CAREFREE AND LIVELY SELF? NEXT TIME, THE STORY SHALL PROCEED WITH THESE THREE POINTS... JUST KIDDING. THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF MATTERS THAT WILL COME TO LIGHT. SO EVERYONE SHOULD REALLY CONTINUE READING!

DURING THIS CURRENT UNPLEASANT SITUATION (OR SO I'VE HEARD), WE HAVE TO WORK EVEN HARDER TO LIVE ON HAPPILY!

2009 MICK
SHIBARIYA KOMACHI VOLUME SIX / END

2009 MICK

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http://id74.net

感想お待ちしてます♥
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縛り屋小町⑥／完

MU CHAN, HI-TAN, KAMINAN, TAKI TAKI, RIU A, M YAMAMOTO, K SAITOH, C ITAKA, MY FAMILY and YOU!!

縛り屋小町

7

竹内未来
Mick Takeuchi

PC
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縛り屋小町 7

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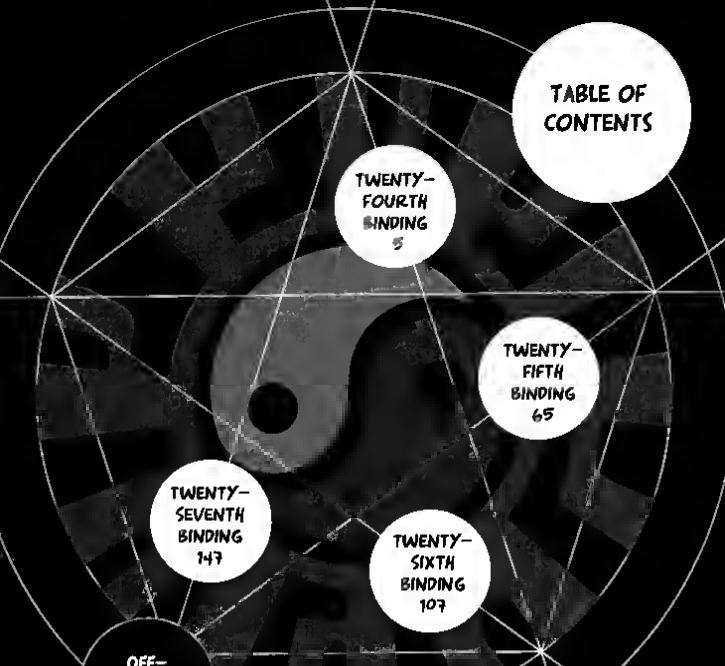
7

竹内未来

They were all taken secretly
This is my treasured photo collection of her sleeping face
Uh
THE BEST OF MY HOMEN NADESHIKO



PREVIOUS SUMMARY

THE MYOONJI CLAN GATHERED ALL THE MUSUBIYA (ONMYOUJI). SIMILAR TO WHEN THE CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED NINE YEARS AGO. WHICH RESULTED IN THE HALF-AWAKENED GOSHIKI NO ITO. CHIKO FINALLY REALIZED THAT SHE WAS TO BE ONE OF THE SACRIFICES FOR THE CEREMONY HELD BACK THEN AND ONLY SURVIVED BECAUSE OF YAE. SHE THEN MET THE YOUTH WHO LOOKED LIKE HER MASTER AND SAW HOW HE STARTED TO SHOW HIS EVIL TEMPERAMENT WHEN EVEN ALL FIVE OF THEM WERE UNABLE TO HOLD THE DEMONIC YOUTH NADESHIKO INITIATED THE CURSE OF ANNIHILATION ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY BOTH THE COCOON AND THE SMALL PALACE. HOWEVER AKEO AND YAE WERE STILL INSIDE AT THAT TIME. NADESHIKO IGNORED THE PLEAS OF CHIKO. WHO HAD LOST THE ABILITY TO CONTROL SHIROGANE. ANNOUNCING THE SMALL PALACE AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS WERE TO BE SEALED AFTER THE LOSS OF HER MASTER AND RIGHT AT THE END OF THE HOLY BATTLE. SOMETHING WAS ?

《初出一覧》 縛りの花嫁編 2008年プリンセスGOLD夏号 縛りの花嫁編 2008年プリンセスGOLD7+8月号
縛りの花嫁編 2008年プリンセスGOLD秋号 縛りの花嫁編 2008年プリンセスGOLD10月号

★この物語はフィクションです 実在の人物・団体等には一切関係ありません。

HMM...
IT SEEMS THAT THE STRENGTH I USED TO HOLD THE BRUSH WAS STILL A LITTLE EXCESSIVE...
IS IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK CLEARLY BEFOREHAND?
NO, IT WAS WRITTEN VERY WELL!
THERE WAS NO HESITATION AT ALL. THE CALLIGRAPHY'S SIMILAR TO YOUR CHARACTER, CHIKO.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, MASTER...

IT WASN'T LIKE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY DOUBTS...

I JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF LOSING THINGS

縛りの二十四
TWENTY-FOURTH
BINDING
にじゅうし
肆

Bam
ABOUT THIS.. UM.
BY INVITING ME TO "CHAZUKE, ARE YOU TELL-ING ME TO
"GET LOST, AFTER EATING!"
IS THAT YOUR INTENTION?
YOU CAN START EATING. THERE'S NO NEED TO BE POLITE!
Giggle
Giggle
Giggle
YOU SHOULD EAT IT WHILE IT'S HOT!

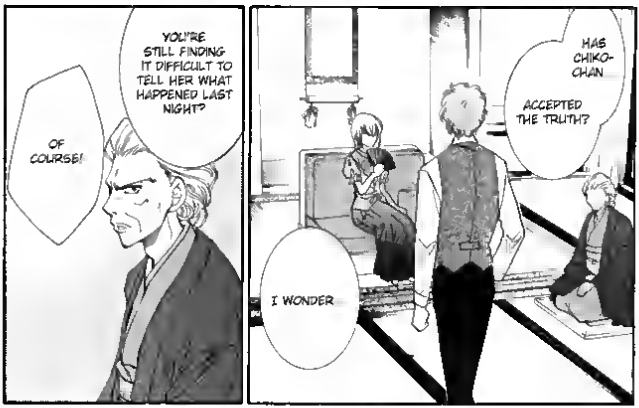
*T/n. In Kyoto when hosts ask their customers if they want Chazuke. It means they have overstayed their welcome and are being politely asked to leave. Connotation: she's calling the main character boorish.

I LOVE INTELLIGENT PEOPLE THE MOST...
HEY, PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE!
MASTER'S DEATH HASN'T BEEN CONFIRMED YET...
REGARDING WHAT HAPPENED TO BIG BROTHER... I'M NOT FORCING YOU TO ACCEPT THE FACTS IMMEDIATELY...
I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOU MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES FOR INVOLVING YOU IN THE 'CLAN'S' POWER STRUGGLE
WE'LL BE TAKING CARE OF YOUR DAILY NEEDS
IF YOU STILL FEEL INSECURE BODYGUARDS CAN BE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT YOU!
T-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
DOING ALL THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO REASSURE YOU

SINCE YOU'VE BEEN DISCHARGED OF YOUR CONTRACT WITH SHIROGANE,
YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR OLD SELF AS WELL
BESIDES SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE ALMOST COMING TO AN END
YOU SHOULD START LIVING LIKE AN ORDINARY GIRL
ATTEND SCHOOL AS PER USUAL...
LIVE ON WELL!
YOU SHOULD RETURN TO TOKYO...
BUT I..
CLENCH
BUT
"YOU'RE A HINDRANCE"
DO YOU NEED ME TO SPELL IT OUT CLEARLY FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND?

IT'S BECAUSE THE USER OF THE WEAPON, 'GOSHIKI NO ITO'...
WASN'T YOU BUT YAE-SAN.
AS OF NOW SHI-ROGANE HAS DISAPPEARED TOGETHER WITH YAE-SAN...
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO CONTINUE STAYING HERE!
NO REASON
BUT JUST BECAUSE OF THAT...
ACTING TOUGH WITH-OUT ANY SORT OF CONFIRMATION IS DIFFERENT FROM BEING RESOLUTE...
FOLD
UM... ABOUT THAT...
EVEN THOUGH THAT'S TRUE...
YOU'RE JUST BEING RECKLESS!

TAP
TAP
BUMP
HEY, YOU!


YOU'RE STILL FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
OF COURSE!
HAS CHIKO-CHAN ACCEPTED THE TRUTH?
I WONDER

AFTER THAT, THE TREASURE VAULT WAS STRUCK AS WELL
EVEN THOUGH NOTHING WAS STOLEN, THERE WERE A LOT OF CASUALTIES ON OUR SIDE
THE BARRIER SURROUNDING THE SMALL PALACE HAS BEEN BROKEN
AT MIDNIGHT, A LOT OF SECURITY GUARDS AND ONMYOUJI WERE ALSO ATTACKED
HEARING THE NEWS WAS ENOUGH TO INDUCE A HEADACHE
IN ADDITION, THE SUSPECT LOOKED A LOT LIKE AKEO
REGARDLESS OF THE BODY SIZE AND SHAPE
THE YOUTH INSIDE THE COCOON...
HE ESCAPED FROM THE SMALL PALACE AND WAS SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING IN THE VAULT...
MAYBE HE HAS SOME CONNECTION TO AKEO,
OR, SHOULD WE SAY THAT AKEO'S BEING USED BY HIM?
PERHAPS, THAT'S THE CASE?

WE'RE NOT CLEAR ON BIG BROTHER'S CURRENT SITUATION...
MAYBE THAT FELLOW HAS RETURNED TO EARTH..
WHAT'S HE ACTUALLY PLANNING TO DO..?
EITHER WAY..
FOR CHIKO-SAN!...
I'D BE BEST NOT TO INVOLVE HER..
SO...

SO TSUNA DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT EITHER
BE-CAUSE
YOU'RE JUST QUIETLY GOING BACK TO TOKYO?
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL!
I DON'T WISH TO GIVE UP ON MASTER.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T THINK LEAVING IS THE BEST THING TO DO.
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
ALTHOUGH I WAS STARTLED SEEING ALL THESE THREADS IN THE BEGINNING,
I FEEL EMPTY NOW THAT I DON'T SEE ANY
I CAN NO LONGER SEE THE BINDING THREADS ANYMORE
SHIROGANE HAS ALREADY LEFT MY BODY
I CAN UNDERSTAND NADESHIKO SAN'S WORDS

LIKE A CHILD WHO CANNOT FIND HER WAY HOME...
EVEN THE RED THREAD
I CAN NO LONGER SEE IT
I'M JUST RETURNING TO HOW IT USED TO BE...
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE LOST EVERYTHING.
AND AM ALL ALONE NOW...

Gasp
AH!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO!
UH...
AH...
Bam
The World Heritage Site!
HUH?
Bow
GOBBLE
GOBBLE

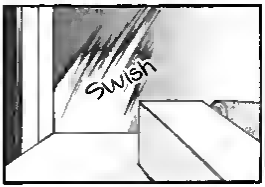
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS "WORLD HERITAGE SITE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?!
WHAT I MEANT WAS SINCE WE FINALLY WENT ON A TRIP TO THE CAPITAL
WE SHOULDN'T JUST BE STAYING INSIDE THE CLAN'S HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT GOING ANYWHERE...
MISO GARLIC RAMEN
RELAXING A LITTLE
AND GOING AROUND SIGHTSEEING SHOULD BE FINE RIGHT?
BUT ALL YOU'RE DOING IS GORGING OUT?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT WHERE WOULD I GET ENERGY FROM WITHOUT FILLING MY STOMACH FIRST?
DON'T YOU KNOW ANY OTHER METHOD TO INVIGORATE YOURSELF?
What the
!
BOTH OF THEM ARE JUST TRYING TO CHEER ME UP .
Just deduct it from the travel allowance! Please, Aya-nyu
I'll pay for everything except the food you ate!
ACTUALLY.

I'M REALLY ASHAMED..
LETTING EVERYONE WORRY ABOUT ME.
BUT I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BE STRONG-WILLED..
DEPRESSED
I'M A HIRTAGE IDEA.
OH YEAH!
UH SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE...
THERE SEEMS TO BE A FAMOUS TEMPLE?
AH ONE THAT AKE-NII'S VERY FAMILIAR WITH
MASTER?!
OF ALL THE THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

AFTER HIS MOTHER PASSED AWAY...
IT WAS SAID THAT AKE-NII STAYED HERE FOR SOME TIME...
IT'S A TEMPLE WITH A LOT OF HISTORY ABOUT THE NAGUMO FAMILY
FOR THE 'CLAN'
THOUGH THE HOUGON-JI TEMPLE SEEMS SMALL IT'S A TEMPLE WITH A LOT OF HISTORY
IT SEEMS THAT HE FREQUENTLY RETURNED HERE AS WELL
CLATTER
SORRY FOR DISTURBING
!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

IS IT SPRING CLEANING?

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT..?


Swish

TSUNA?!
Scoot
Scoot

!
WATCH OUT, CHIKO!
BLOCK!

Throw
Flash
WUU!
TSUNA!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IT RAN AWAY...
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS
BUT...
JUST NOW...
WASN'T THAT...
AKE-NII'S SHIKIGAMI?!

MASTER'S
SHIKI-GAMI?
WHY WOULD AKE-NI'S SHIKI-GAMI...
APPEAR IN THIS OLD TEMPLE?
ALSO, IT WAS ACTUALLY TRYING TO ATTACK US...
clatter
ARE ALL OF YOU FROM THE MYOONJI CLAN?
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT...?
A DEMON SUDDENLY APPEARED...
IT MADE A MESS OF THE TREASURE VAULT AS WELL...
ABBOT

Angry
AH
"AGAIN"?
THE TREASURE VAULT AGAIN—
Uh, oh
LOOOOOOOM
W-
WHY WOULD YOU...
SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER FROM US?!
It wasn't my decision to keep it from you.
SO YOU'RE SAYING...
WE HAD NO IDEA OF WHATEVER'S BEEN HAPPENING...?
plugs ears

THE SMALL PALACE'S BARRIER HAS BEEN BROKEN...
IT'S CONFIRMED THAT THAT PERSON HAS ALREADY ESCAPED...
WHETHER AKEO'S BEING CONTROLLED BY THAT PERSON... OR THAT PERSON HAS POSSESSED HIS BODY
OR IF IT'S EVEN AKEO HIMSELF... WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!
BUT!
MASTER MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE ..?
ABOUT THAT...

YOU CAN'T JUST CHOOSE TO SEE THE POSITIVE SIDE OF THE MATTER!
BOT, WE'RE REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS!
IT'S FINE
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF ALL OF YOU DECIDE TO STAY HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS
WE'LL ONLY BE STAYING FOR ONE NIGHT?
WE'LL RETURN TO TOKYO TOMORROW!
Yes Sir!
Sir! I'm the one who has to tell the story about our stay
THERE'RE ONLY A FEW MONKS IN THIS TEMPLE
MOREOVER, YOU ALSO HELPED TO CLEAN UP THE MESS

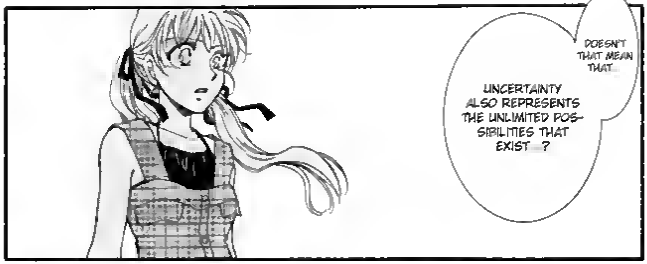
I'M SORRY...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
OUCH!
Sprain
"YOU'RE A HINDRANCE..."
ALL I DO...
IS CAUSE TROUBLE FOR EVERY-ONE...
EVEN THOUGH MASTER SAID HE FOUND THE WILL TO LIVE BECAUSE OF ME
I WASN'T THE ONE WHO SAVED HIM!
I EVEN NAIVELY BELIEVED THAT I BECAME STRONGER ON MY OWN...
IT WAS THE POWER OF ANOTHER PERSON

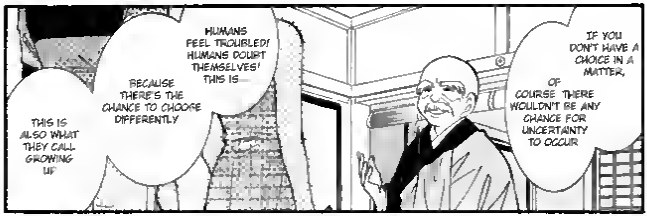
I'M POWER-LESS.
HOW COULD I EVEN SEEK TO SAVE OTHER PEOPLE...
WHEN I'M NOT EVEN SURE OF...
WHAT I SHOULD DO ABOUT MY-SELF.
CHIKO...
reach
ba-thump
!
ぼぼぼぼぼぼ!

HAHA HOW IMPOLITE OF ME...
MASTER DID...?
AKEO-SAMA ONCE SAID THE SAME THINGS...
I WANT TO BECOME STRONGER. I WANT MORE POWER
HE SAID THE SAME THINGS WHEN HE WAS YOUNG
IT SHOULD STILL BE HERE IF I'M NOT MIS-TAKEN...
MANDALA?
THIS IS CALLED *THE GARBHADHATU MANDALA
OH, I FOUND IT!
YES! AKEO-SAMA WOULD ALWAYS ASK AND ANSWER HIMSELF WHILE LOOKING AT THIS MANDALA

T/N This mandala actually exists.

THE LIFE DWELLING IN A MOTHER'S WOMB
CREATES A BODY EVENTUALLY BORN UNTO THE WORLD.
THE COMPASSIONATE HEART DWELLING IN A PERSON,
ALLOWS HIM TO REACH THE ENLIGHTENMENT NECCESSARY FOR REDEMPTION AFTER GROWING THROUGH THE TRIALS OF LIFE
THOSE ARE THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THIS MANDALA.
Pffffffffff
THIS SEEMS LIKE THE THEORY OF THE GAME OF LIFE...?
PERHAPS SO!
wahahaha!
Be careful or God's punishment!
WHICH WOULD MEAN...
THERE ARE AS MANY TRIALS TO OVERCOME AS BUDDHA AND BODHISTTVA PORTRAITS.
NATURALLY THAT WOULD ALSO MEAN THERE IS THAT MUCH UNCERTAINTY!
UNCERTAINTY


DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT...
UNCERTAINTY ALSO REPRESENTS THE UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES THAT EXIST...?

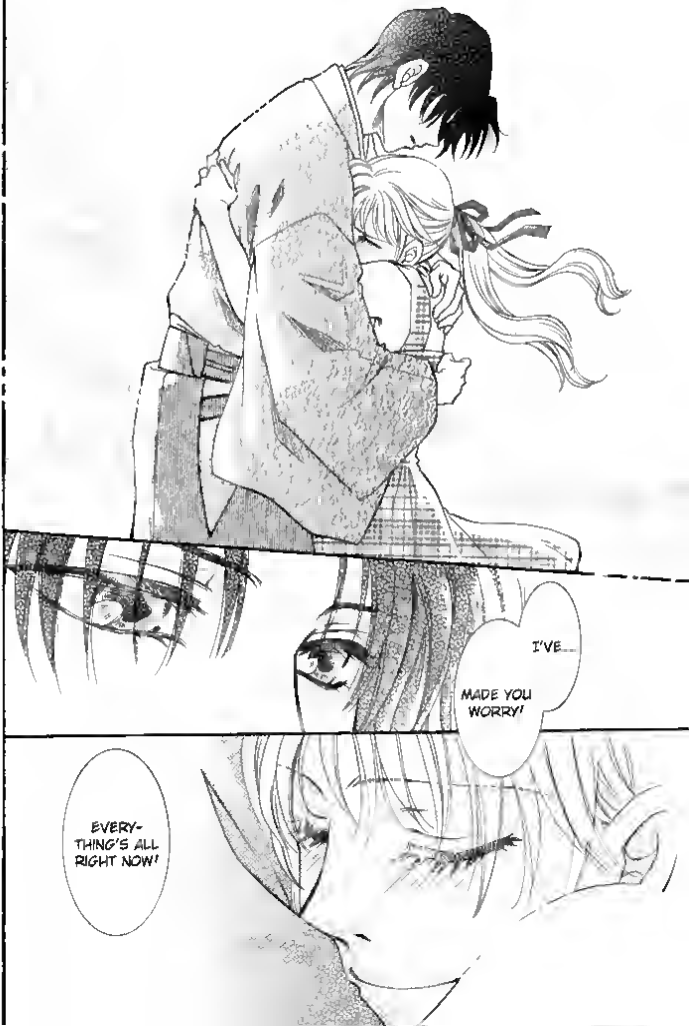

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE IN A MATTER, OF COURSE THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY CHANCE FOR UNCERTAINTY TO OCCUR
HUMANS FEEL TROUBLED! HUMANS DOUBT THEMSELVES! THIS IS...
BECAUSE THERE'S THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE DIFFERENTLY
THIS IS ALSO WHAT THEY CALL GROWING UP

GROWING UP...?
FEELING UNCERTAIN MEANS THAT YOU'RE GETTING CLOSER TO YOUR OWN TARGET...
THINK OF IT AS A TICKET TO ENTER THE NEXT TRIAL IN YOUR LIFE!

I LOST MY BOND WITH SHIROGANE...
BUT DOES THIS MEAN I OPENED UP MORE POSSIBILITIES?
I'M STILL UNCERTAIN...
Does this count as an answer from me?
ALSO...
WHETHER YOU MOVE FORWARDS OR BACKWARDS DEPENDS ON YOUR RESOLVE
SIGH
MY RESOLVE...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
!
HAS MASTER ALSO FELT UNCERTAIN ABOUT HIS CHOICES BEFORE...?

.....
MASTER?!

MA...
STEP
MASTER!!!
MASTER!
Transcendence
TH... THIS IS GREAT
I THOUGHT
I THOUGHT YOU HAD
SORRY...
SO...


I'VE...
MADE YOU WORRY!
EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT NOW!

CHIYAKO...
CLING
AH...
SHOVE!

CHIYAKO, WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
WHO...
ARE YOU?!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MASTER'S FACE
AND HIS VOICE...
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
YOU'RE NOT MASTER!
THE FEELING OF DISSONANCE MIXED WITH UNFAMILIARITY...
IT'S THAT YOUTH...

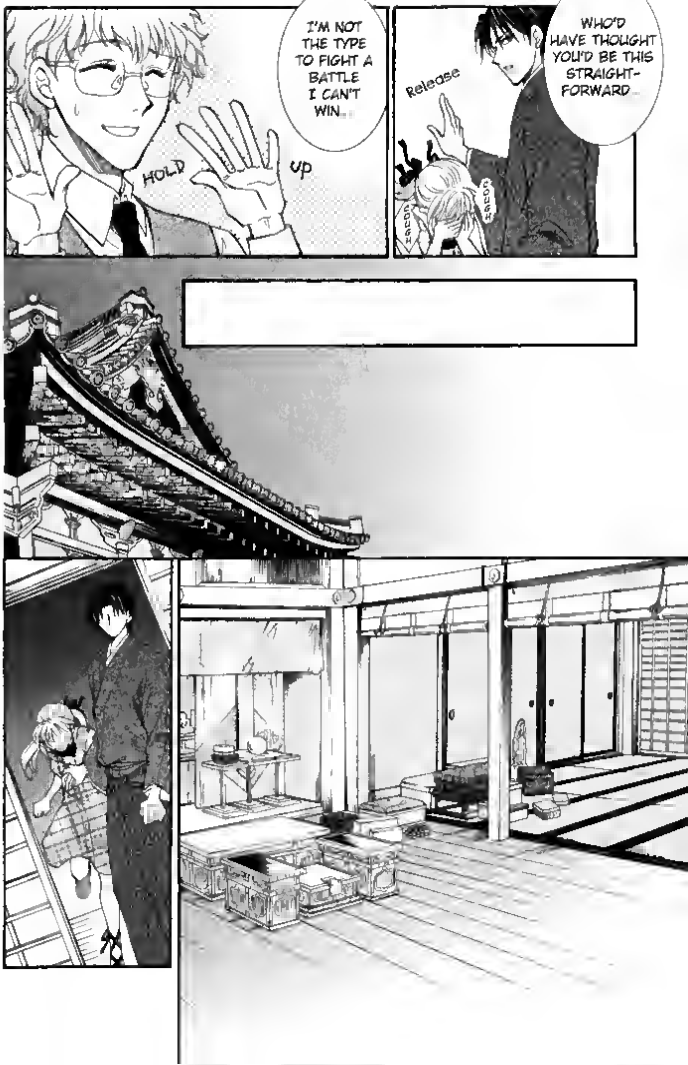
AKE-NII?!
CHIKO?!
FATE!
FATE!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SWOOSH
GRAB!!
WHAT?!

CHOKE
AKE-NII!!
THAT PERSON... THAT'S NOT AKE-NII!
ん... ひぃぃぃ
YOU'RE RIGHT
IORI...
MY NAME IS IORI!

IN ORDER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT SMALL, DARK [illegible]...
I HAD TO MAKE A DEAL!
ORIGINALLY, I WANTED A CHILD'S BODY
IT'S TOO DIFFICULT TO INVADE ADULTS ALWAYS BEING STUBBORN...
I HAPPEN TO HATE THEM, AS WELL!
HOWEVER, THIS BODY SEEMS VERY SUITABLE...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'RE VERY MUCH ALIKE!
DON'T TALK ABOUT MASTER AS IF HE'S LIKE YOU!
HE IS!
POSSESS-ING LOFTY GOALS AND OUTSTANDING ABILITIES...
YET, WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN ON BY OTHER PEOPLE...
CURSING THE WORLD AS WE LIVE...

CURSING ?
WAIT
SO,
WHAT HAPPENED TO AKE-NII?
HE'S ALREADY DEAD.
DIDN'T YOU SEE?
HOW—
COULD THIS BE?

THE FIVE TREASURES!
THEN,
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING FOR?
THE SACRED PALACE TREASURES, BESTOWED ON HOUGONJI TEMPLE..
INDEED THE NAGUMO FAMILY HAS LEFT SOME ITEMS IN OUR CUSTODY...
I DON'T KNOW, EITHER!
WHY WOULD THOSE TREASURES BE IN THIS OLD TEMPLE?
SACRED TREA SURES?
THERE'S A SECRET CHAMBER BELOW THE ALTAR.
AYA-NIIYA
THEY SHOULD ALL BE IN THE MAIN HALL!


I'M NOT THE TYPE TO FIGHT A BATTLE I CAN'T WIN...
HOLD
UP
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D BE THIS STRAIGHT-FORWARD...
Release
SACCH
SACCH

KOKURYU
SWOOSH
FLASH
WHAM
WAA!
HEY
Transcendence
A BARRIER...
IT'S A TRAP?!
USING A BARRIER TECHNIQUE OF THIS LEVEL...

DON'T TELL ME...
SLIDE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
THE GATEWAY TO HELL HAS BEEN OPENED?!

IT'S ALSO SITUATED ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE UNDERWORLD...
THIS OLD TEMPLE... IS LINKED WITH THE NAGUMO FAMILY IN CHARGE OF ALL CURSES AND BARRIERS...
NADE-SHIKO-SAN?!
IF YOU'VE ALREADY BECOME A ROTTEN SKELETON ANYWAY...
LET ME SEND YOU TO HELL!
YOUR JUDGMENT'S BASED ON APPEARANCE?
YOU MEAN...
ALSO IF YOU WERE TO CONTINUE USING THIS HUMAN SKIN TO LIVE...
IT'D BE RATHER DISTURB-ING...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES BY...
THIS FACT WILL NEVER CHANGE...
THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE CAPABLE OF...
YOU USE PEOPLE OF VALUE... BUT ONCE THEY LOSE THEIR FUNCTION, YOU SIMPLY DESTROY THEM!
THIS DISGUSTS ME.
KA-BOOM

ROOOOOOAAR
WHAT'S THIS?!
IS THIS A COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST THE BARRIER?
AH!
SLIDE
CRASH
WAAH!
CRASH
AAAAH!!
WHOOSH

ROAR
NADE-SHIKO-SAMA?!
AAAAH!
TSUNA!
AYA-NII?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP HIM...
HE'S SIMPLY TOO POWERFUL!

GET OUT OF HERE!
AH...
IT'S VERY OBVIOUS THAT I CAN'T BE OF ANY HELP...
B-BUT...
IT'S VERY OBVIOUS...
LOOKS LIKE BEING HANDICAPPED ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU...?
EVEN TO MYSELF...

BAM
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO?
CHIKO-SAN?!

I HATE THIS..
SEEING SOMEONE WITH THE SAME APPEARANCE AS MASTER..
HURT OTHER PEOPLE.. I HATE TO SEE THIS HAPPENING..
MASTER MUST ALSO BE VERY UNWILLING..
EVEN NOW, WOULD CARING ABOUT A DEAD PERSON CHANGE ANYTHING?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE...?

YOU'RE STILL UNABLE TO FALL INTO THE DEPTHS OF HELL...
THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT THE PERSON YOU'RE POSSESSING ISN'T DEAD...
ON SOME LEVEL...
THIS PROVES THAT MY BIG BROTHER'S STILL ALIVE ISN'T HE?

NADE-SHIKO-SAN!
YOU..
FWIP
IT'S NOT HOPELESS... THERE'S STILL A POSSI-BILITY..
SO FOR YOU, JERK...
JUMP
CHIKO-SAN, YOU...
EVEN THOUGH, NADESHIKO-SAN, YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT I LIKE TO ACT TOUGH...

THE AMOUNT OF SELF-DOUBTS WOULD EQUATE TO THE AMOUNT OF TRIALS I'LL FACE...
WITH MORE TRIALS...
THE 'ME' RIGHT NOW
CAN ONLY DO THIS!
AS LONG AS I HIT SOMETHING MIGHT CHANGE!
GRAB
and that
Take that
WOOSH
WOOSH
EVEN IF I HAVE TO SWING RANDOMLY WITH RANDOM THINGS
GRAB
UNTIL I FIND THE NEXT POSSIBILITY..
UH..
CRASH
P.E.W
YOU
CLANG

EVEN IF IT'S NOT PERFECT...
FWOOM
I MUST CONTINUE TRYING!!!
Usami had invited Yakusoku Town to a festival.
SHINE
?!
FLAP
THIS LIGHT...
THE MANDALA IS GLOWING...

Grab
CHIKO-SAN, RECITE THIS, QUICKLY!
SLAM
HUH?
NAUMAK SANMAN-DAH...
BODANAN ..
WHAT NAU-MAKU?
BODA...?
Huh?
Huh?
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU RECITE IT WRONGLY!
SEALS AND MANTRAS ARE SIMILAR TO FATE IN THAT
YOU CAN BIND THEM!
"DON'T BE ANXIOUS."
BIND THEM

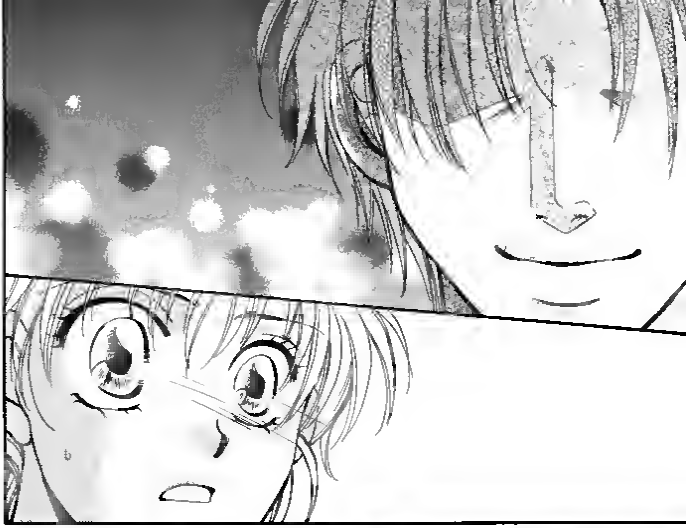
"FOCUS YOUR HEART."
"IMAGINE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS EXTENDING AS THE THREAD."
MASTER!!!
HE'S
HE'S RIGHT BESIDE ME!
NAU-MAK SAN-MAN-DAH
BODANAN APILA LINKEN

FROM THE MANDALA...
THERE'S A THREAD...
CONNECTING THE FATES...
WORSHIPPING THE SPIRITS...

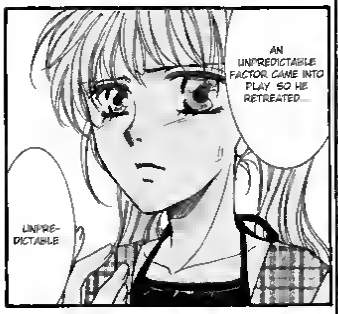
THIS IS...
IT'S...
SHIROGANE?!
THE THREAD WAS ACTUALLY SEWN INTO THE PORTRAIT?
BUT DIDN'T SHIROGANE DISAPPEAR IN THE SMALL PALACE?
SO IT WAS HIDDEN IN THERE...
IS THIS A COPY?
.....
THAT'S OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE!!!

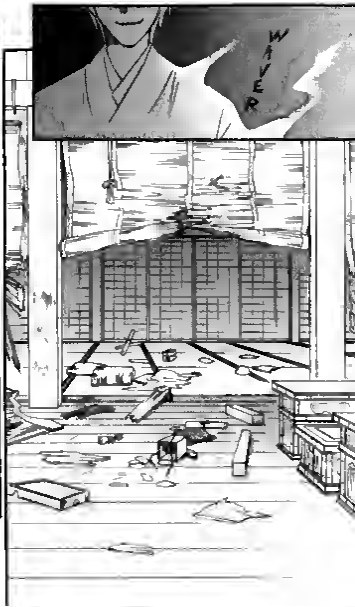
"YIN THREAD"?!
HAHAHA
APPARENTLY, YOU GUYS KNOW NOTHING!
THE YIN THREAD...
THE POWER TO CONJURE SPIRITS COMES FROM THE COMBINATION OF YIN AND YANG...
ONCE THE SOULS OF YIN AND YANG ARE COMBINED...
A NEW SPIRITUAL POWER WILL BE FORMED...

THE GOSHIKI NO ITO WERE ORIGINALLY A PAIR CALLED 'YIN' AND 'YANG'.
THERE'RE TWO THREADS FOR EACH ELEMENT
SO THAT'S IT!
HUH?
!!!
SO YOU WERE AFTER THE SPIRITUAL POWER, AM I RIGHT?
.....



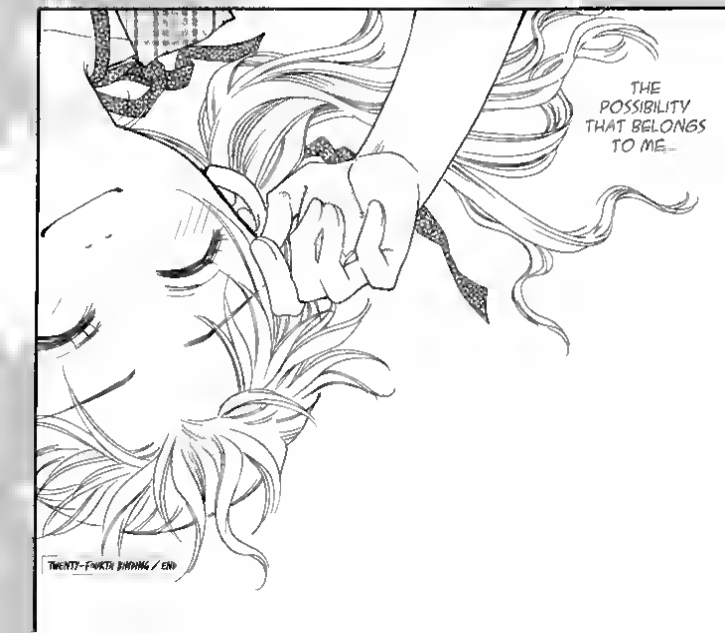
DID HE ESCAPE?
THAT'S NOT THE CASE


AN UNPREDICTABLE FACTOR CAME INTO PLAY SO HE RETREATED...
UNPRE-DICTABLE


WAIVER

ANOTHER
SHI-ROGA-NE...
Sl
de
FALL
"UNCERTAINTY ALSO REPRESENTS THE UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES THAT EXIST."
PAt
CHIKO! YOU'RE BRILLIANT!

THUD!
ばた!
WHOA, CHIKO!
!
!
...!
THIS THREAD MIGHT BE...


THE POSSIBILITY THAT BELONGS TO ME...
TWENTY-FOURTH BINDING / END

*T/N Onmyouji Incantation

Book Starter guide in becoming an onmyouji

Sign: Training Grounds

縛りの弐拾伍

ARE YOU

OF COURSE NOT!
TRYING TO BE FUNNY?
I WAS TRYING TO DO SOME ADDITIONAL TRAINING!

EVEN THOUGH I OBTAINED THE YIN-PART OF SHIROGANE
I'M STILL UNABLE TO FREELY CONTROL IT—
IT'S BECAUSE—
THAT'S WHY I MUST PUT IN MORE EFFORT IN PRACTICING—
SO THAT I CAN REACH THE LEVEL OF CONTROLLING IT AT WILL!
AFTER FAINTING AND SLEEPING FOR TWO DAYS—
THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU WAKE UP IS TRAIN?
Hee hee, it's all thanks to you that the windows have started to show signs of fracturing.

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTH BETWEEN ME AND IORI,
I WON'T RUN AWAY!
I CAN'T ALWAYS DEPEND ON THE POWER OF SHI-ROGANE.
I MUST BECOME STRONGER MYSELF, TOO!
BEING LISTLESS AND SIGHING MY DAYS AWAY ISN'T AN OPTION!
I'VE FINALLY COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT
YES ..
I MUST...
BRING MASTER BACK!

LOVE IS LIGHT!
LOVE IS LIKE A RAGING FIRE!
IT'S BECAUSE LOVE HAS THE ABILITY TO MAKE PEOPLE STRONGER!
LOVE is POWER
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
Hah
You sensed like a dead person a zero days ago
I SEE THAT HOPE FOR AKEO'S SURVIVAL...
HAS MADE YOU DETERMINED...

AH...
Support me a little!
Unfazed
I'VE SACRIFICED MY EMOTIONS TO USE THE GOSHIKI NO ITO...
WELL...

That's true
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WHY'S IT LIKE THAT?
YOU FORMED A CONTRACT WITH THE YIN THREAD, YET YOU DIDN'T TURN INTO A CHILD!
STRANGE...
SPEAKING OF A SACRIFICE...

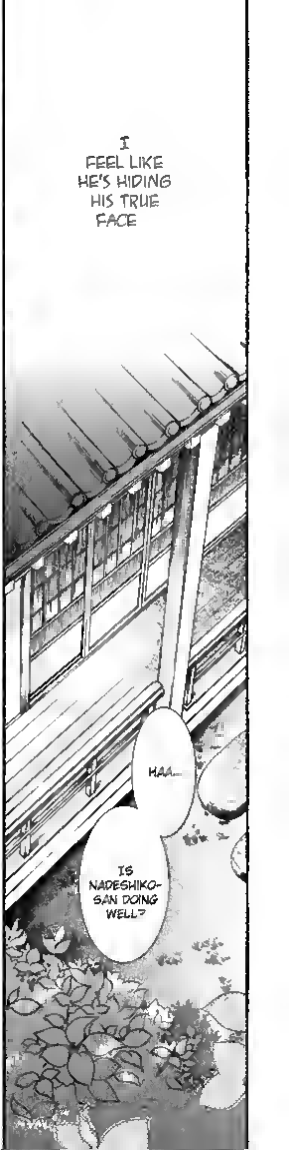
MAYBE...
Lean
YOU'VE BECOME AN ADULT?
Ba-thump
HAHA! I WAS JUST JOKING
Gasp
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
WHAT...

IT'S TRUE AYA-NII IS AN UNPREDICTABLE PERSON...
THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE HEAD
SHE'S PROBABLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU AS WELL!
THIS IS PROBABLY PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT NOBODY CAN READ HIS EMOTIONS, BUT

AH...
THE WOUND ON HER RIGHT HAND SEEMS TO BE HEALING WELL!
THE DAY AFTER SHE WAS WOUNDED...
SHE WAS ALREADY WORKING AS USUAL AGAIN.

AMAZING...
She's really a super woman.
IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S THE OWN LEADER... IT'S WHAT'S EXPECTED OF HER.

EVER SINCE SHE LOST THE USE OF HER LEGS NINE YEARS AGO...
SHE HAD TO RETIRE FROM HER POSITION AS THE HEAD PRIESTESS...
BUT, AS THE HEAD THERE'S STILL A LARGE AMOUNT OF WORK WAITING FOR HER...
"RETIRE"?!


I FEEL LIKE HE'S HIDING HIS TRUE FACE
HAA...
IS NADESHIKO-SAN DOING WELL?

Transcendence

*T/N, Ame-no-Uzume-no-mikoto is the Goddess of dawn, happiness and joy in the Shinto religion of Japan.

BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNG I USED TO HIDE IN A CORNER AND WATCH HER.
SHE MUST'VE BEEN AROUND TEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME
BUT IT WAS TRULY BEAUTIFUL

DURING THAT MOMENT, I SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE DESCENT OF A GODDESS.

BAM
フル
ーン
YOU'RE ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH NADESHIKO-SAN ♡ AM I RIGHT?
AH! I GET IT!
My intuition is indeed sooo rare!
Wow! This is the first time I've seen you being so flustered!
Fuuuuuh
MY FAMILY HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE CLAN LEADER FOR GENERATIONS.
I AM MERELY ONE OF THE HEAD'S GUARDS!
IT'S NOTHING LIKE WHAT YOU JUST SAID!
IT'S PART OF MY JOB...
YOU ALSO LOOKED PANICKY WHEN NADESHIKO-SAN GOT HURT!
OH YES... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT NADESHIKO-SAN!
Squeal

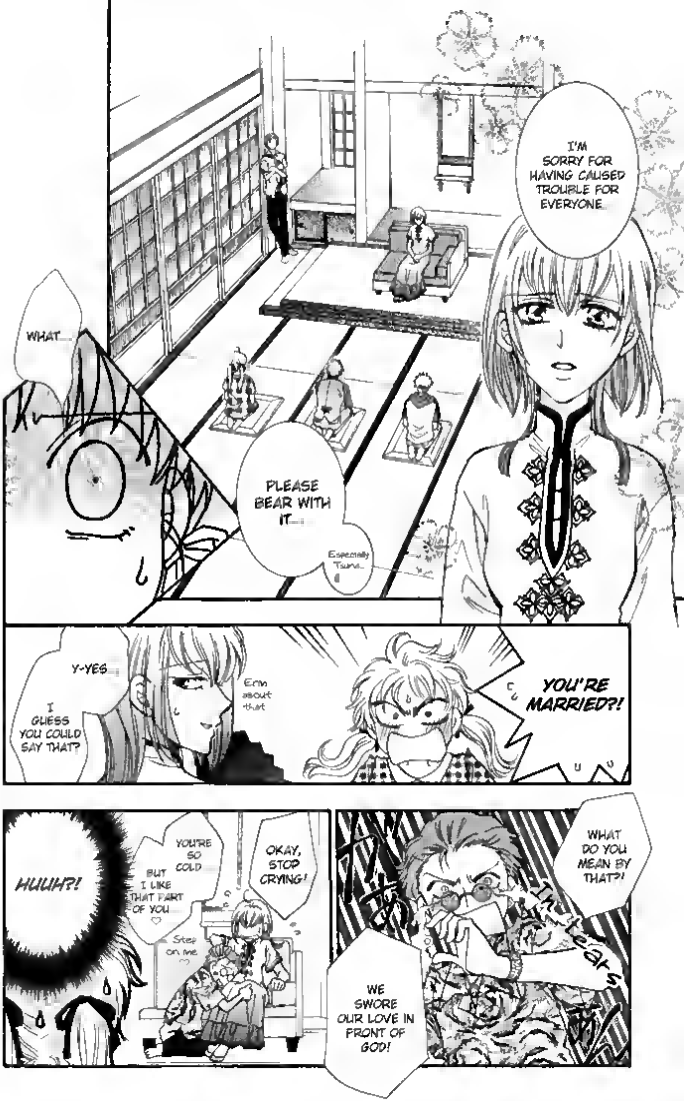
ALSO, I FEEL THAT YOU'D MATCH WELL WITH NADESHIKO-SAN!
NO! SHE'S ALREADY...
SO YOUR LOVE STORY STARTED WHEN LOYALTY TURNED INTO AFFECTION!
A love between a master and her servant
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR OWN STATUS...
Hey
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
Ah Haa
a hardcore fan of love stories
I'LL DEFINITELY SUPPORT THE BOTH OF YOU!
SO...
Bang

TSUNA...
?!
TSUNA?!
THUD
WAS HE ATTACKED BY IORI...?
CHIKO! NO, STAY AWAY!
AH!
HUH?
SHOCK
WHAT...
ARGH...

?!
GLARE
WHY WOULD SOMEONE FROM THE YAKUZA...
COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
YAKUZA*2
T/N: Japanese organized crime group (mafia)
I SAY, YOU'VE MADE QUITE A MESS,
YA...
Huh?!
You know each other?

I REFUSE TO BE LECTURED BY SUCH A PERSON
HOWEVER, HAVING TO BE CRITICIZED BY A PERSON WHO WASN'T EVEN THERE ...
IT'S INDEED OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THE HEAD FROM BEING INJURED
YOU'RE NEVER HOME WHAT A PERFECT EXCUSE
Who is he?
Who is he?
Confused
Confused
Erm
I ALSO HAD A MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH!
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO'VE ALLOWED MY WIFE TO GET HURT, DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING!
HUH?

Fli—
YOU'RE SO NOISY!
ng
WHA—
My lovely honey Nadeshiko!
So noisy
Aaah
You're cute as always
THROWING SUCH A FUSS AFTER COMING HOME!
HUH—?
What's his real personality?
Transcendence


I'M SORRY FOR HAVING CAUSED TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE...
WHAT...
PLEASE BEAR WITH IT...
Especially Tsuna...
Y-YES...
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT?
Even about that
YOU'RE MARRIED?!
HUUH?!
YOU'RE SO COLD
BUT I LIKE THAT PART OF YOU
Stay on me
OKAY, STOP CRYING!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
It beats
WE SWORE OUR LOVE IN FRONT OF GOD!

HEAD!
I NEED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH YOU
AH...
THIS IS WHAT WE WANTED TO INFORM YOU ABOUT...
WE CAN'T REALLY TALK WITH THIS GUY AROUND...
TCH!
I NEVER EXPECTED THAT NADESHIKO-SAN WOULD ALREADY BE MARRIED
EVEN MORE SO, I WOULD'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT SHE'D GET MARRIED TO SUCH A HOODLUM
PRINCESS
LIKE
Hmm?!
Is it that impossible?
It's the same with Master. Is it a family tradition to marry early?
I ACTUALLY SAID SOMETHING SO CARELESSLY
Gloom
GLANCE
AYA-
Nii, HE...
Burble

THE GOSHIKI NO ITO ACTUALLY CONSISTS OF A YIN AND A YANG THREAD...
WE ONLY REALISED THIS AFTER CHIKO-SAN BONDED WITH THE YIN THREAD OF SHIROGANE
IORI...
THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE YIN THREADS
THEY EXIST FOR THE OTHER ELEMENTS TOO...
THE YOUTH THAT IS CURRENTLY POSSESSING AND USING MASTER'S BODY
WE MUST FIND THEM BEFORE IORI GETS TO THEM...

EVEN THOUGH IT SOUNDS GRAND TO SAY THAT
THEY WERE BESTOWED UPON US BY THE IMPERIAL PALACE
IT'S MORE LIKE THESE ITEMS WERE PUSHED ON US BECAUSE THEY WERE UNMANAGEABLE
THERE ARE ONLY FEW PEOPLE WHO KNOW OF THEIR EXISTENCE
WE'RE UNCERTAIN IF RECORDS EVEN EXIST
IF THE REMAINING FOUR THREADS WERE HIDDEN INSIDE THOSE FIVE TREASURES
WHERE WOULD THESE BE HIDDEN THEN?
THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW—
HOW COULD THIS BE ?
THE INVESTIGATIVE SQUAD UNDER SHIGEO
IF WE COULD GET THEM TO TRACK AND INVESTIGATE THE WHOLE THING—
IT MIGHT HELP IN TRACKING DOWN THE—
I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS MESS!

SHIGEO...
HOW DARE YOU TALK BACK TO ME LIKE THAT?
SHE'S SCARY!!!
Ouch
Ouch
CRACK
CRACK
Go easy on me! Tell the shikigami not to exert such force on me
crack
BAM
BAM
My good mood was ruined
THAT'S WHY IT WAS NECESSARY FOR YOU,
NADESHIKO-CHAN TO COME OUT AND HANDLE THIS RIGHT?
WHAT...?
Twitch
I-ISN'T ALL THIS BECAUSE...
THIS LOT IS USELESS?!
This hurts

RISE
SHE CAN'T USE...
HER SPIRITUAL POWERS...?
I'M JUST NOT IN OPTIMAL CONDITION RIGHT NOW.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
IN THE END...
YOU OPENED THE GATES OF HELL WITHOUT ANY PREPARATIONS...
ALL OF YOU ARE JUST MESSING AROUND!
OF COURSE YOU'D GET INJURED!
AND NOW YOU CAN'T EVEN USE YOUR SPIRITUAL POWERS!
CURRENTLY, I CAN'T LEAVE THE CLAN
FINDING THE YIN THREADS WILL HAVE TO BE LEFT TO ALL OF YOU INSTEAD...

WH...
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT!
THAT JERK!
APPEARING OUT OF THE BLUE GIVING US SUCH ATTITUDE!
I HATE PEOPLE LIKE THAT THE MOST!
WHAT? WHY DOES SOMEBODY LIKE HIM KNOW ABOUT ME?
HE'S JUST A LOUSY JERK WHO ONLY THREATENS PEOPLE BY USING VIOLENCE!

HAA...
YOU CAN'T SEE HIM THAT WAY... HE'S GOOD AT WHAT HE DOES
HUH...?

OF THE UNDERCOVER ONMYOUJIS HE QUICKLY ROSE TO THE TOP
TO BE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OF THE INVESTIGATIVE SQUAD
EVEN THE CLAN WHICH HOLDS BLOODLINES IN HIGH REGARD
ALLOWED THE HEAD TO MARRY AN OUTSIDER LIKE HIM
YOU'RE VERY DEPENDING EVEN THOUGH HE BEAT YOU UP!
SHE'S A SENIOR TO ME SINCE HE'S FROM THE MAIN FAMILY

NADESHIKO-SAN...

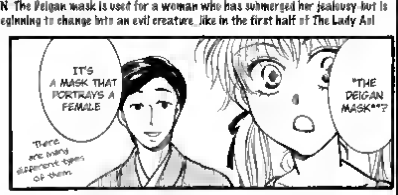
DOES HE NOT FEEL ANYTHING FOR HER?

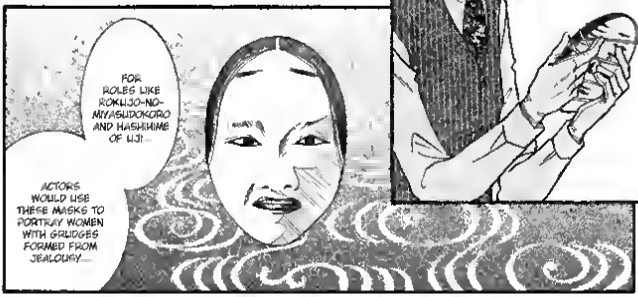
AYA-NII...

INDEED
NEXT UP WOULD BE...
THE NOGAKU* HOUSEHOLD!
*T/N. Nogaku is a major form of classical Japanese musical drama that has been performed since the 14th century.
MY GREAT GRANDFATHER COLLECTED MASKS
HURRY UP!
SO SLOW!
AHAH
HE WENT THROUGH EVERY CHANNEL,
IT SEEMS HE SCOOPED EVERYTHING UP
EVEN BOUGHT THOSE NOT SOLD ON THE MARKET
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU SEE IT...
clatter
STRANGE WHAT KIND OF MASK IS IT?
ONE OF THEM GAVE OFF A PARTICULARLY STRANGE FEELING
IT'S SAID TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO GREAT GRANDFATHER BY THE HOUGONJI TEMPLE...

IT'S TRUE!
THEY REALLY ARE ATTACHED TIGHTLY TO THE MASK...
Tug
Tug
SO SCARY...
THOUGH THE ROPES COVER THE MASK...
YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REMOVE THEM, EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO.
DID THE BOTH OF YOU FEEL ANY-THING?
YES INDEED, IT'S A VERY STRANGE MASK...
BUT WE WOULDN'T KNOW IF THE YIN THREAD'S INSIDE...
THAT'S TRUE...
Transcendence

*T/N: The Deigan mask is used for a woman who has submerged her jealousy but is beginning to change into an evil creature, like in the first half of The Lady Aoi




FOR ROLES LIKE ROKUJO-NO-MIYASUDOKORO AND HASHIHIME OF UJI...
ACTORS WOULD USE THESE MASKS TO PORTRAY WOMEN WITH GRUDGES FORMED FROM JEALOUSY...

SOMEHOW
IT SEEMS SIMILAR TO AVA-NIL...
THIS IS WHAT WE SHOULD DO
WE SHOULD BRING THIS MASK TO THE HEAD AND LET HER HAVE A LOOK!
?!
Fsshhh
HUH? THIS SUDDEN MIST...
Fwoosh
Fsshhh

Thud
AH!
Fwoosh
?!

W-WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
WHY DID YOU SNATCH IT?
YOU JERK, WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO?
NARUMI-SAN...
HAVEN'T YOU GUYS NOTICED YET?
Thud
Point

Boom
slither
?!
Rumble
slip
THIS IS...
Rumble
Rumble
Ruin
Rumble

POSSESSED WHEN WE ACQUIRED THE MANDALA.
IT MUST'VE BEEN...
IT'S POSSESSED.
IORI'S...
CAT?
KOKURYU!
swish
thud

Crackle
NO EFFECT?
STARTLED
OUJIN!
SH-SHIROGANE!
WAAH!
Boom
Ka-boom
WAAH!
Tap
IN THIS CASE...
Lands

I'M SAYING THAT THE PLAYERS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH!
LEAN
STOP
FWOOSH

INSTANT-LY
AMAZING
Whoosh

DOES BEING A BEARER OF THE SACRED WEAPON, THE GOSHIKI NO ITO,
MAKE YOU FEEL OMNIPOTENT AND ABLE TO BE ARRO-GANT?
!
Twitch
WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTICE IT?

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SPEAK IN THAT MANNER?!
THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T NOTICE THE SUMMONED BEAST!
HE'S BEEN TRYING TOO HARD!

AYA-NII HAS BEEN TRYING VERY HARD!
HE FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO NADESHIKO-SAN...
MOVE

CHIKO-CHAN, YOU...

YOU IDIOT!
WHOOSH
THAT'S RIGHT!
HE'S AN OPPONENT THAT EVEN AKE-NII FOUND DIFFICULT TO HANDLE...

IF YOU KNEW IT WAS AN OPPONENT THAT COULDN'T BE HANDLED EASILY,
WHY DIDN'T YOU THINK OF STOPPING NADESHIKO-CHAN?

NADESHIKO-CHAN WENT OUT ALONE ON THAT MISSION, RIGHT?
THE WHOLE MANDALA INCIDENT...
SINCE IT'S AN ENEMY THAT CAN'T BE DEFEATED EASILY...
DOES THAT MEAN...
NADESHIKO-SAN ALREADY KNEW SHE'D BE INJURED...?
"YOU'RE STILL UNABLE TO FALL INTO THE DEPTHS OF HELL. THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT THE PERSON YOU'RE POSSESSING ISN'T DEAD"
ON SOME LEVEL THIS PROVES THAT MY BIG BROTHER'S STILL ALIVE ISN'T HE?
SO YOU WERE AFTER THE SPIRITUAL POWER, AM I RIGHT?"
YET IT'S AN ENEMY THAT MUST BE DEFEATED AT ALL COST...
YOU SHOULD'VE USED ANY MEANS YOU COULD TO COLLECT RELEVANT INFORMATION, RIGHT?
UNLIKE ME... YOU WERE WITH HER BACK THEN...
WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTICE AT ALL?

DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO KILL NADESHIKO-CHAN?

YOU...
WHAT'RE YOU SAY-ING...?
Annoyed
NO MATTER WHAT...
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT SAY
?!
Shove
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED!

A...
AYA-NII...
KER-CHAK
HMPH...
TOSS
AYA-NII!

*T/N. He's comparing Aya to the Noh mask.

THE WORDS FROM A PERSON LIKE THAT...
DON'T LET THEM BOTHER YOU!
YOU'D NEVER DO SUCH A THING...
NADESHIKO-SAN SURELY UNDERSTANDS THAT AS WELL...
RUN

CHIKO-CHAN, YOU'RE TOO NAIVE...
Snicker
WORDS LIKE, "LOVE CAN MAKE A PERSON STRONGER"...
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
A...
AYA-NII?
HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!

I...
REALLY HAD THE INTENTION TO KILL NADESHIKO-SAMA...

縛りの弐拾陸

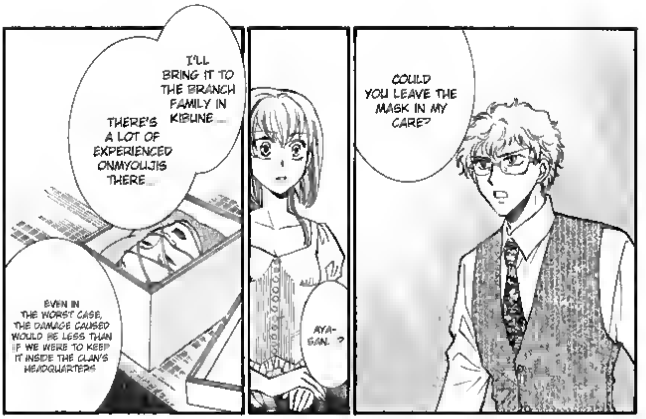
Twenty-Sixth Binding

WITH THE NATURE OF AN ABYSS...
SHADOW IN THE DARKNESS...
FROZEN WINTER...
"WAKE UP FROM YOUR HIBERNATION THAT LASTED EIGHT CENTURIES OF WINTER..."

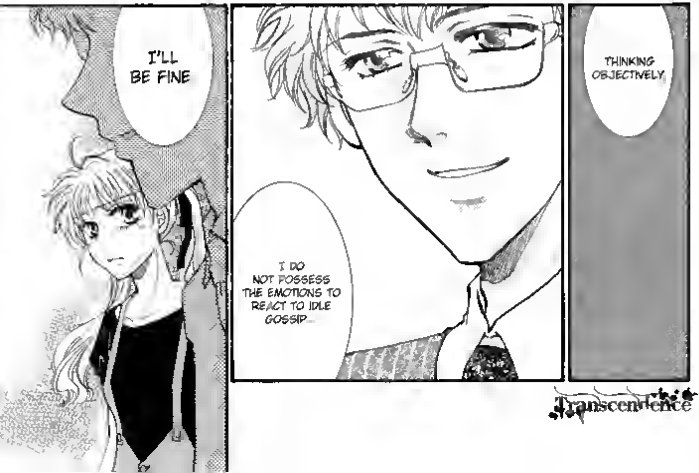
IT DOESN'T WORK
MY SPIRITUAL POWER WAS DEFLECTED...
Flicker
IT SEEMS THAT I DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO RETRIEVE IT RIGHT NOW...
MY APOLOGIES
IT IS ..
BUT
IS IT TRUE THAT THE POWER OF THE YIN THREAD IS SEALED INSIDE THIS NOH MASK?

HMM...
THEN, IF I MAY ASK MR. FOUR-EYES, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
INDEED, I CAN FEEL THE POWER OF KOKURYU INSIDE...
IF I'M NOT WRONG, IT SHOULD BE THE YIN THREAD...
FOR NOW, WE CAN ONLY TRY TO THINK OF WAYS TO RELEASE THE BLACK THREAD...
FIRST-LY...
YOU STUBBORN IDIOT!!!
YOUR REACTION'S REALLY SLOW, PIGHEAD!

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS...
THAT LITTLE DEVIL, IORI, IS AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS MASK...
NEXT TIME IT MAY NOT BE A SHIKIGAMI, BUT HE HIMSELF!
IF THAT HAPPENS CURRENTLY, THE CLAN DOESN'T HAVE AN ONMYOUJI WHO CAN EQUAL HIM!
LETTING THE CLAN FACE THIS KIND OF DANGER...
I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU INSTEAD— HOW'RE YOU GOING TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS?
SHIGEO, DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
AH... ♡ I'LL STILL PROTECT MY PRECIOUS NADESHIKO-CHAN... DON'T YOU WORRY! ♡
WHAT NONSENSE IS IT YOU'RE SPOUTING?! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE WITH ALL YOUR SARCASTIC REMARKS?!
Stiffen
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...


I'LL BRING IT TO THE BRANCH FAMILY IN KIBUNE...
THERE'S A LOT OF EXPERIENCED ONMYOUJIS THERE...
EVEN IN THE WORST CASE, THE DAMAGE CAUSED WOULD BE LESS THAN IF WE WERE TO KEEP IT INSIDE THE CLAN'S HEADQUARTERS
AYA-SAN...?
COULD YOU LEAVE THE MASK IN MY CARE?

Stop making a mess!
DON'T BE BOTHERED BY THE NAG-GING OF THIS USELESS JERK...

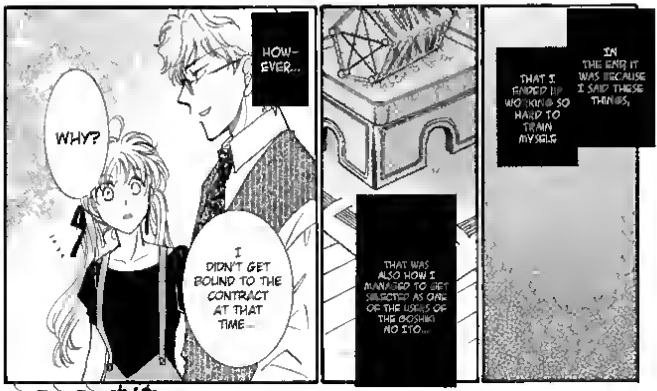

I'LL BE FINE
I DO NOT POSSESS THE EMOTIONS TO REACT TO IDLE GOSSIP...
THINKING OBJECTIVELY,

HUH?
LOSING MY EMOTIONS
MIGHT BE A GOOD THING
AH AYA NII STOP FOOLING AROUND!
YOU SHOULDN'T CARELESSLY JOKE AROUND ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING
IT'S TRUE!

I REALLY THOUGHT OF KILLING NADESHIKO-SAMA!
IN MY CASE...
I WAS OFTEN BULLIED AS A KID...
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE HEIR TO THE HIMURO FAMILY, THE STRONGEST AFFILIATED FAMILY TO THE CLAN...
I WAS SMALL, THIN AND SICKLY.
always mistaken for a girl
I DIDN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN ONMYOUJI!
I WAS LIKE AN AUTISTIC PERSON WITH LOW SELF-CONFIDENCE!
That's really hard on anyone.
WOW.

HONOR-ABLE AND UNREACH-ABLE JUST LIKE A GODDESS
NADESHIKO-SAMA WAS THE SYMBOL FOR WHAT I WANTED TO BE...
AT THAT TIME TO SOMEONE LIKE ME...
NE YEARS AGO
AFTER THE INCIDENT IN THE SMALL PALACE...
I MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CLAN !
BUT I REFUSE TO ADMIT DEFEAT!
I LOST THE USE OF MY LEGS,
AND MY MOST IMPORTANT FAMILY MEMBER...

I'M WILLING TO BE YOUR LEGS!
RIPPLES APPEARED ON THE PREVIOUSLY CLEAR WATER SURFACE...
I...
I WILL TRAIN EVEN HARDER
TO BECOME AN EVEN STRONGER ONMYOUJI THAN AKEO-SAMA!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
Ahh
AAA
I-I'M SORRY!
I ACTUALLY SAID "TO BE YOUR LEGS"....
...How disrespectful of me!
I WAS TOO AGITATED, TOO PRESUMPTUOUS...
HOW IMPUDENT OF ME!
AM I...PERVERT?!


HOW-EVER...
WHY?
I DIDN'T GET BOUND TO THE CONTRACT AT THAT TIME...
THAT WAS ALSO HOW I MANAGED TO GET SELECTED AS ONE OF THE LOCKS OF THE GOSHIKI NO ITO...
IN THE END IT WAS BECAUSE I SAID THESE THINGS,
THAT I ENDED UP WORKING SO HARD TO TRAIN MYSELF

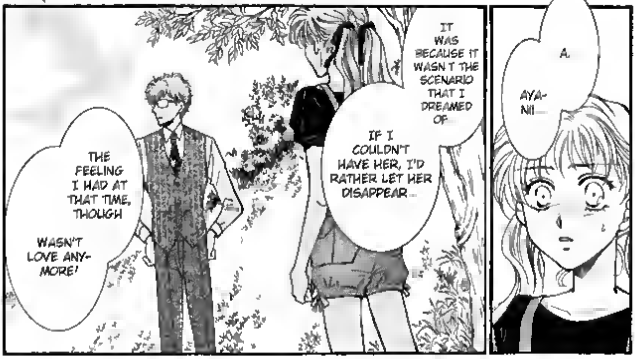
THE GOSHIKI NO ITO REQUIRED A BIGGER SACRIFICE FOR THE CONTRACT TO BE FORMED!
JUST LIKE HOW AKEO SACRIFICED YAE-SAN.
BUT... I WASN'T WILLING TO LOSE NADESHIKO-SAMA!
REALISTICALLY SPEAKING REGARDLESS OF AGE, FAMILY BACKGROUND OR STRENGTH
I WAS THE FIRST IN LINE TO BECOME HER HUSBAND...
I WASN'T FIXATED ON JUST BECOMING A USER OF THE GOSHIKI NO ITO...
I STILL HAD OTHER WAYS TO BECOME HER LEGS
THAT WAS WHEN THE INCIDENT HAPPENED!
I HAD TO TEMPORARILY LEAVE THE CLAN FOR A MISSION
AT THAT SAME TIME, NADESHIKO-SAMA CHOSE TO BE WITH A ROGUE ONMYOUJI OF UNKNOWN ORIGINS...
THE BOTH OF THEM THEN ELOPED.
AH... E-ELOPED?!

I REALIZED IT BACK THEN SHE WASN'T THE GODDESS I THOUGHT SHE WAS...
SHE WAS JUST AN ORDINARY WOMAN!
HOWEVER, I STILL FELT BETRAYED...

YES...
EVEN THOUGH NADESHIKO-SAMA WAS BROUGHT BACK RIGHT AFTER...
...SHE HUGGED ME RIGHT WHO KNEW THE TWO OF THEM COULD BE SO ROMANTIC!
IT GAVE ME A BIG SHOCK...!
Squeal

WHAT NADESHIKO-SAMA WANTED...
WASN'T A MAN WHO TREATED HER AS A HEAD AND ASSISTED HER...
SHE WANTED A MAN WHO TREATED HER AS A WOMAN AND PROTECTED HER.

SO...I FORMED THE CONTRACT WITH KOKURYU.


IT WAS BECAUSE IT WASN'T THE SCENARIO THAT I DREAMED OF...
IF I COULDN'T HAVE HER, I'D RATHER LET HER DISAPPEAR...
THE FEELING I HAD AT THAT TIME, THOUGH
WASN'T LOVE ANY-MORE!
A-
AYA-NII...

TO ME, THE MOST IMPORTANT FATE...
WASN'T NADESHIKO-SAMA'S, BUT MY OWN!
WHAT I WANTED TO PROTECT...
WAS MY OWN EMOTIONS!

SO, THE SACRIFICE FOR THE CONTRACT...
WASN'T NADESHIKO-SAMA...

MY HEART IS UGLY, ISN'T IT?
BUT INSTEAD, AYA-NII'S EMOTIONS ?

ALL THE HATE AND JEALOUSY
OR EVEN THE EMOTIONS TO LOVE A PERSON...
HAVING SUCH FEELINGS...
HENCE,
IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF SOMEONE AS SHALLOW AS ME DISAPPEARED!
DISAP-PEARING...
MAY BE A GOOD THING INDEED...
HOW...
AYA-NII...
HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL, DEEP DOWN?
REALLY
AYA-NII'S...
REAL FEEL-INGS...

GRIP
SCREECH
YOU MASOCH-IST!!!
SCREECH
B-BUT... THIS ..
RUMBLE RUMBLE
SORRY FOR BEING A MASOCHIST!
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO...?

HOW CAN A PERSON REMAIN SO CALM EVEN AFTER LOSING HIS MOST IMPORTANT FATE?
EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN OPINION!
THIS IS REALLY TOO STRANGE!
HOW CAN ANYONE SIGN THEMSELVES AWAY AS A SACRIFICE...
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME...
I DID CONCEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT YAE-SAN FROM MASTER...
"YAE... SHE...?"
"....."
HURTING THE OTHER PARTY BECAUSE YOU LIKE THEM...
I DON'T BELIEVE I COULD LOVE SOMEONE TO SUCH AN EXTENT
BUT... LOVING SOMEONE TOO MUCH, RESULTING IN LOSING ONESELF...
I BELIEVE THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF THAT HAPPENING!

THAT WHICH WE CALL SACRIFICE

EVEN THOUGH YOUR DECISION MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE
DOES THAT MEAN IT'S IRREVOCABLE?

DOES IT END ONCE YOU LOSE YOUR EMOTIONS?

THE ONLY WAY I'VE GOT TO HELP HER

AT THIS POINT IN TIME... WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
HAVE A DEMON?!

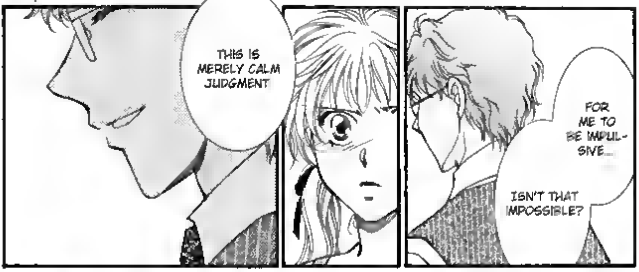
EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO TAKE BACK MY DECISION...

AYA-NII, THE REASON YOU FEEL INDIFFERENT ABOUT LOSING YOUR EMOTIONS....
ISN'T IT BECAUSE YOU REGRET HAVING MADE THE WRONG DECISION?
OR SHOULD I SAY THAT...
BY CONTINUING TO PUNISH YOURSELF...
IT'S POSSIBLE TO GET HER FORGIVENESS... TO STAY BY HER SIDE AND PROTECT HER?
RUSTLE

Bam

DID YOU GUYS REALLY THINK THAT BY USING SUCH PETTY SKILLS
WHOOSH
YOU COULD GET AWAY FROM ME?

The car's been wrecked. Oh dear, this is terrible indeed.
ALL RIGHT!
CHIKO-CHAN, TAKE THE NOH MASK AND QUICKLY ESCAPE THROUGH THE FOREST
TSUNA YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE OF NOTIFYING THE CLAN...
AND WAITING FOR HELP TO ARRIVE
HUH?
WAIT... AYA-NII! ARE YOU TRYING TO SERVE AS BAIT?
It's fine! Just go hurry!
AH... AYA-NII!
DON'T BE TOO IMPULSIVE!


THIS IS MERELY CALM JUDGMENT
FOR ME TO BE IMPULSIVE...
ISN'T THAT IMPOSSIBLE?

"THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT."

IT'LL... BE ALL RIGHT...

Whack
HOW COULD I NOT WORRY ABOUT YOU, YOU PIG-HEAD!
YOU...
That was the Noh mask, a national treasure.
With the Yin threat inside on top of that...
?!

JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY THE HERO?
YOU EGOISTICAL FOOL!
THERE'S OBVIOUSLY A PROB-LEM...
IDIOT FOUR-EYES!

BRAT!!!
Snap

YOU... THIS LITTLE BRAT...
PESSI-MIST!
NEGATIVE THINKER!
ROTTEN MUSH-ROOM!
SMELLY WATER INSECT!
PERVERT!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
A BRAT LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT...
TO CALL ME A BRAT, DAMN IT!
SHUT THE HELL UP!!!
AH...
AYA-NII...?
Damn it.?
YOU KNOW NOTHING!

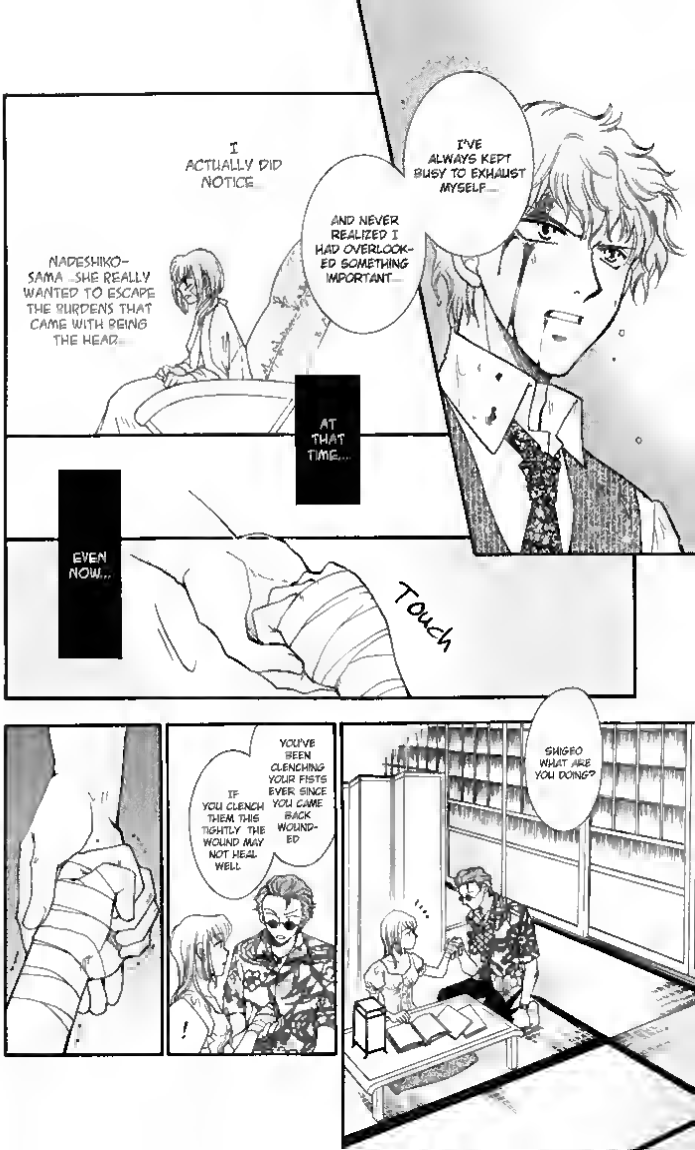
LOOKING THROUGH THOSE LITTLE SLITS FOR THE EYES...
YOUR LINE OF VISION WILL ONLY BECOME NARROWER!
OF COURSE I KNOW NOTHING!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WEAR AN EMOTIONLESS MASK ALL THE TIME!
"WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTICE IT?"
IT'S ONLY OBVIOUS THAT YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THE DANGER NADESHIKO-SAMA WAS IN!
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND YOUR TRUE FATE!
BY DOING SO THIS STUBBORNLY...
YOU'RE EVEN DECEIVING YOURSELF...

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE DISTRACTED BY OTHER THINGS!
Bam
AYA-NII?!

Fwoosh
YOU SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN ONE OF THE YIN THREADS ALREADY...
Splash
STARTLE
I REMEMBER

DISSIPATE
WHAT?
Splash
Swish
Splash
FAMILIAR WITH THE END OF THE LONG ROAD...
WHAT'S THIS?
SITTING STILL AND MEDITATING BEFORE THE GODDESS...
SEEING THE SAME NIGHT SCENERY AWAKEN MY HEART...

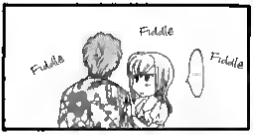
THE NOH SONG "IRON TRIVET"...
THE WOMAN WHOSE JEALOUSY DROVE HER MAD AND TURNED HER INTO A FEROCIOUS GHOST, CURSING HUMANS...
A HEART-BREAKING STORY OF HOW SHE VISITED THE SHRINE WHEN SHE BECAME UGLY...
MAYBE, WHEN I TURN INTO A FEROCIOUS GHOST, MY HEART WILL BE MORE AT EASE...
AYA-NII!
YOU'RE RIGHT...


I'VE ALWAYS KEPT BUSY TO EXHAUST MYSELF...
AND NEVER REALIZED I HAD OVERLOOKED SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
I ACTUALLY DID NOTICE...
NADESHIKO-SAMA...SHE REALLY WANTED TO ESCAPE THE BURDENS THAT CAME WITH BEING THE HEAD...
AT THAT TIME...
EVEN NOW...
Touch
YOU'VE BEEN CLENCHING YOUR FISTS EVER SINCE YOU CAME BACK WOUNDED
IF YOU CLENCH THEM THIS TIGHTLY THE WOUND MAY NOT HEAL WELL
SHIGRO WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Fiddle
Fiddle

"LOOKS LIKE BEING HANDICAPPED ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU."

IORI...
HE MAY REALLY BE THE BIGGEST MENTAL TRAUMA TO MY NADESHIKO-CHAN
Bg-thump


Fiddle
Fiddle
Fiddle

OKAY, OKAY♡

T-THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SCARED OF HIM!

I'M NOT THE PERSON SHE WANTS TO RELY ON... SIMILARLY...

THE MASK'S...
ROPES!
LOOSEN
BUT...
MY FEELINGS OF WANTING TO PROTECT HER...
BUT...
splа-
sh

THESE FEELINGS...
ARE SINCERE!
FWISH
FWOOSH
Transcendence

Rumble
Rumble
KOKURYU!
THE SACRED MESSAGE DELIVERED FROM THE HOLY RITUAL...
EVERY-THING IN THIS WORLD IS CREATED FROM THE BALANCE OF YIN AND YANG...

Rumble
AH...
THUD!
I SHALL WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME...
"AND FIRST RETURN WHAT IS DUE!"

SILENCE
IT SEEMS I'VE SUMMONED IT!
THE YIN THREAD...
Cool, right?
AYA-NII!
Dash
don't have the right to tell others off
I JUST WANTED TO USE THE LYRICS OF IRON TRIVET TO ACT COOL A LITTLE...

IT FELT LIKE I WAS FREED FROM MY BURDENS...
I WONDER WHY
I HAVEN'T THROWN SUCH A TANTRUM IN A LONG TIME...
IT ACTUALLY MADE ME RELAX A LITTLE...
I'M... I'M SORRY, AYA-N!
I SPOKE TOO HARSHLY
Though all in on purpose
HER WORDS
LIBERATED ME?
?

AH...
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF THE PERSON I LIKED WAS CHIKO-CHAN INSTEAD!

HUH?!
What?

Who knows?
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
You're joking right?
You.
You. Huh?
Seriously?

HAA...
MAYBE I REALLY AM A MASOCHIST...
Why do I always meet people like that?

Twenty-Seventh Binding

IT HAPPENED...
IN A SPLIT SECOND...
NOT REALLY... I CAN'T SAY I RECOVERED ALL OF THEM...
IF THE GOSHIKI NO ITO ARE A PAIR OF OPPOSITES,
THEN CONTRARY TO THE BINDING POWER OF THE YANG THREAD, THE YIN THREAD MAY HAVE THE POWER OF UNBINDING.
HAVE YOU RECOVERED YOUR EMOTIONS?!
THIS WAY, CONTROLLING THE POWER OF BOTH THREADS MAY END UP DECREASING THE SACRIFICE...

Wha
ck
WE CAN RETRIEVE WHAT WE SACRIFICED?! THAT'S AWESOME!
Let's go Hi!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT IF WE RETRIEVE THE YIN THREAD
YEAH...
AH...
TSUNA
I SUDDENLY FEEL...
Great!
REALLY MOTIVATED NOW!
"IT'S LONELY TO HAVE A HOUSE AND NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO IT."
HE SACRIFICED EATING WITH HIS FAMILY IN ORDER TO USE THE GOSHIKI NO ITO. WAKANI TOLD ME SO BEFORE.

BUT...
JUST WHY IS IT THAT ONLY THE YIN THREAD...
NEEDS TO BE HIDDEN AWAY SO CAREFULLY?
FOR ME...
IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE...
HUH?
AH! THAT'S TRUE...
YOU'RE TOTALLY RIGHT...
IT SEEMS THAT...
IT WAS DONE TO AVOID THE ATTENTION OF CERTAIN PEOPLE...
BUT WHOM...?
AYA-NII?
Drip
I SEE...

FWOOSH
THE YIN THREAD IS...
Reach
FSSHHH
Drip
Drip
Drip

J-JUST WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
AYA-NII?!
WHERE'S AYA-NII? WHERE DID HE GO?
AHH! AYA-NIIII!
AYA-NII?!
Flop
AH
IT'S LIKE IT WAS MEANT TO CUT OFF AYA-NII'S WORDS...
AYA-NII SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR...
AYA...
Grapple
AYA-NII...?

HOW ABOUT IT? HAVE YOU FOUND HIM YET?
I'M SORRY
I'VE ALREADY ASKED EVERY PRIESTESS IN THE CLAN TO SEE HIS FATE,
YET THERE'S ALWAYS THIS UNKNOWN DISTURBANCE...
WE'RE UNABLE TO FIND ANY OF AYA'S SPIRITUAL ENERGY
THIS IS REALLY WORRYING!
NADESHIKO-CHAN EVEN PUSHED THROUGH HER EXHAUSTION
AND TOOK COMMAND OF THE DIVINATION HERSELF
I-IT'S...
I'm really sorry
IT'S BECAUSE AYA-NII HAS BEEN MISSING FOR THREE DAYS...

Patter
Patter
CALM DOWN
I DON'T THINK WE'D HAVE THE TIME TO DO SO
EVEN SO, THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE SHOULD JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT AROUND
SINCE HE DIDN'T RESPOND TO THE SUMMONING,
THAT STUPID FOUR-EYES SHOULDN'T BE DEAD YET

TSUNA?!
Open
HAH
HAH
THE HEAD'S PREMONITION
WAS RIGHT!

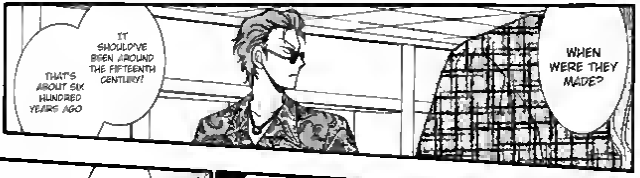
ISORA-SAN... SHE'S MISSING TOO?!
EVER SINCE BIG BROTHER DISAPPEARED IN THE SMALL PALACE
ISORA HAS BEEN ISOLATING HERSELF IN HER ROOM.
SHE IGNORED MY SUMMONS TO SEE HER, AS WELL
EVEN WHEN SHE WAS NOTIFIED ABOUT AYA, THERE WAS NO RESPONSE AT ALL!
I SENT TSUNA TO CHECK IT OUT...
THAT WAS WHEN I STARTED TO FEEL SUSPICIOUS.
WE FOUND OUT THAT ISORA WENT MISSING...
IN THE MORNING, AROUND FOUR DAYS AGO...

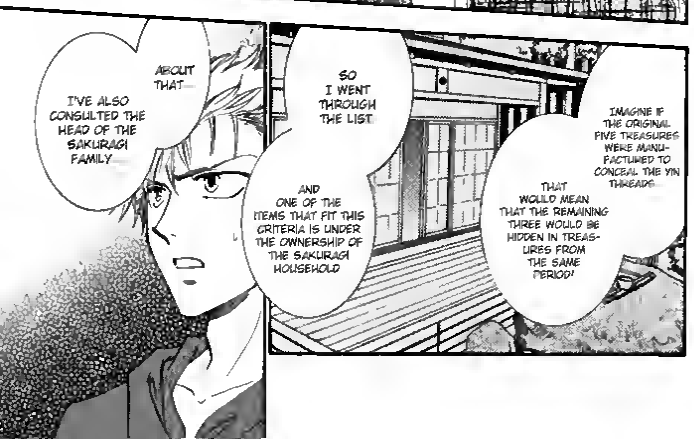
HEY
FOUR DAYS...
EVEN BEFORE FOUR-EYES...
YOU MEAN THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO ISORA-SAN IS RELATED TO AYA-NII'S DISAPPEARANCE?
THAT'S WHAT ISORA'S FATHER SAID AS WELL...
HER PERSONAL BELONGINGS ARE LEFT UNTOUCHED...
SO SHE COULDN'T HAVE RAN AWAY

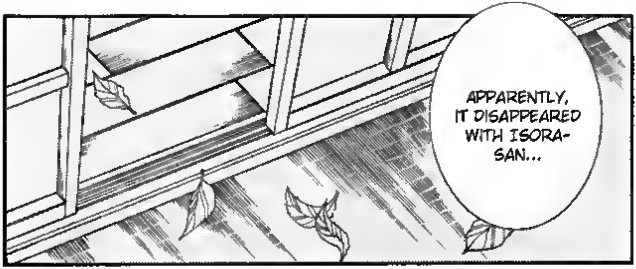
YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, FIRST!
SLIDE
HUH?
I TOLD TSUNA TO GO TO THE SAKURAGI HOUSEHOLD.
I MADE IT LOOK LIKE IT WAS TO GET ISORA TO MEET ME... BUT THAT W. ISN'T THE ACTUAL OBJECTIVE...

FIRST, THE YIN THREAD FROM THE GARBHADHATU MANDALA.
AND THEN THE DEIGAN MASK WE RECENTLY FOUND
BOTH TREASURES WERE MANUFACTURED DURING THE SAME PERIOD...
DISCOVERING THIS SIMILARITY SHOCKED ME...

THIS CONTAINS THE LIST OF TREASURES BESTOWED BY THE PALACE!
WE FINALLY MANAGED TO ORGANIZE IT FROM THE REMAINING RECORDS


WHEN WERE THEY MADE?
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN AROUND THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY!
THAT'S ABOUT SIX HUNDRED YEARS AGO


IMAGINE IF THE ORIGINAL FIVE TREASURES WERE MANUFACTURED TO CONCEAL THE YIN THREADS...
THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THE REMAINING THREE WOULD BE HIDDEN IN TREASURES FROM THE SAME PERIOD!
SO I WENT THROUGH THE LIST...
AND ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT FIT THIS CRITERIA IS UNDER THE OWNERSHIP OF THE SAKURAGI HOUSEHOLD
ABOUT THAT...
I'VE ALSO CONSULTED THE HEAD OF THE SAKURAGI FAMILY...


APPARENTLY, IT DISAPPEARED WITH ISORA-SAN...

HOW COULD THIS BE ?
THIS WOULD PROVE OUR CONJECTURE CORRECT!

SHOCK
IT FEELS LIKE WE'LL ALL BE SWALLOWED WHOLE...
WHY SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE CLOSING IN ON US...
THIS OMINOUS FEELING...

NADESHIKO-CHAN?!
NADE-SHIKO-CHAN!
clench
Bam
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED...?
THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN MOVE RIGHT NOW, ARE THE TWO OF YOU...
I have to guard my honey Nadesiko, kol
ANYWAY, YOU MUST FIND THE REMAINING YIN THREADS FIRST!
Shove

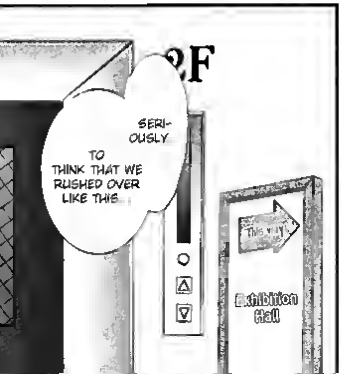
YOU STILL CAN'T CONTROL OUJIN, RIGHT?
HERE I CAN'T
BUT...
QUIT BEIN' SUCH A SCAREDY-CAT!
DON'T BE TOO ENTANGLED IN THE PAST.
YOU KNOW, TSUNA, HE...
IT'S NOTHING...
IT'S...
THE PAST?

WHEN HE FIRST USED THE GOSHIKI NO ITO...
HE COULDN'T CONTROL THE OUJIN,
AND INJURED HIS YOUNGER BROTHERS!
THOUGH I THINK
HE'S JUST UNWILLING TO USE IT!
EVER SINCE,
THE POWER OF THE LOCATION HAS PLAYED A BIG PART FOR HIM.

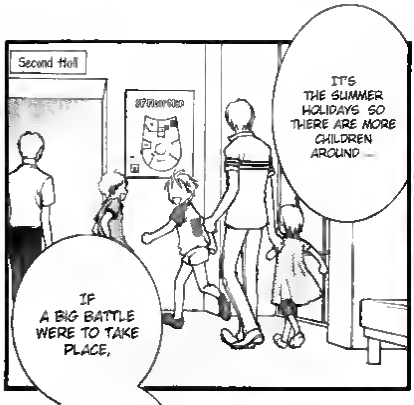
shuts
TSUNA.

WE INDEED HAVE IT HERE...
Keitoku Memorial History Museum
TEA-COLORED KOSODE*
Muromachi Period (150
T/N: Kosode: Kimono with small wrist openings

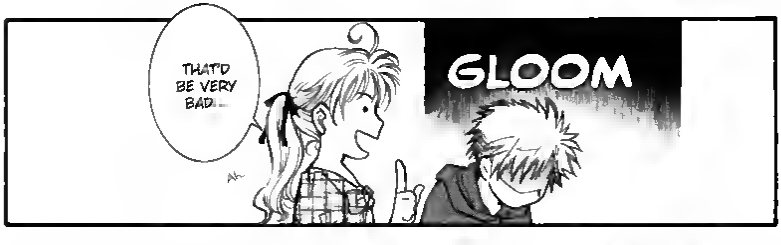
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TAKE IT AWAY IMMEDIATELY
PLEASE WAIT TWO MORE HOURS UNTIL THE MUSEUM CLOSES...
Fidget
Fidget
HOWEVER, IT'S CURRENTLY ON-DISPLAY SO...
IT WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY THE DIRECTOR


SERI-OUSLY...
TO THINK THAT WE RUSHED OVER LIKE THIS...
This way
Exhibition Hall

THEN, WE'LL STILL HAVE TO FINISH SOME HANDLING PROCEDURES!
AN ANTI-CORROSION PROCESS DROUGHT PROTECTION
AS WELL AS DAMAGE PROTECTION.


Second Hall
2F Floor Map
IT'S THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS SO THERE ARE MORE CHILDREN AROUND...
IF A BIG BATTLE WERE TO TAKE PLACE,
THE CHILDREN MIGHT BE HURT..
FLINCH

AH!
MAYBE WAITING UNTIL THE MUSEUM CLOSES...IS A GOOD THING?

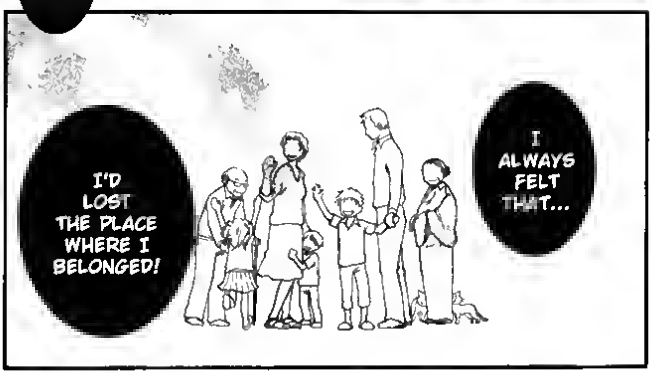

THAT'D BE VERY BAD...
AH
GLOOM

2F Floor Map
YOU... YOU HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER, RIGHT...?
I'M SORRY...
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE!
Ugh...

YEAH,
THERE'RE ALSO MY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS AS WELL AS THE THREE CATS WE'RE RAISING! IT'S A FAMILY OF ELEVEN!
THE STRUGGLE OF A BIG FAMILY...?
WE'D MAKE A GREAT TV SHOW!
YOU'RE THE ELDEST, THEN?
Yes, you're the youngest among the Matsuis.
I HAVE TWO YOUNGER BROTHERS AND ONE YOUNGER SISTER!
I'M AN ONLY CHILD,
SO I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ENVIOUS OF BIG FAMILIES...♡
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
BUT...
YOU MUST'VE REALLY LOVED YOUR FAMILY, RIGHT?
EVEN WHEN WE EAT, WE'D SNATCH FOOD LIKE WE WERE IN SOME SURVIVAL GAME!
I NEVER HAD A ROOM TO MYSELF...
I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF MY YOUNGER SIBLINGS...
IT'S NOT AS GREAT AS YOU THINK IT IS...

THINGS ABOUT ONMYOUJI ARE ONLY HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE FROM RELATIVES...
WE'RE JUST AN ORDINARY FAMILY!
MY FAMILY'S A BRANCH FAMILY OF THE HOUGONJI TEMPLE...
LATER ON I HEARD THAT BECOMING AN ONMYOUJI WOULD ALLOW ME TO GET A GUARANTEE FROM THE CLAN.
SO I DECIDED TO BECOME ONE
HE ENDED UP BEING BURDENED WITH A LOT OF DEBTS...
HOWEVER, MY FATHER'S BUSINESS FAILED...
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I HAD A VERY STRONG SIXTH SENSE
Some thing reversed apparently
AT THAT TIME, I WAS EXTREMELY THRILLED
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME ALSO SAID I HAD TALENT FOR IT
I FELT LIKE THE HERO WHO SAVED OUR FAMILY
AND THOUGHT I'D SHOW MY SIBLINGS THE POWER OF OUJIN.
ON TOP OF THAT, I WAS CHOSEN TO BECOME A USER OF THE GOSHIKI NO ITO...

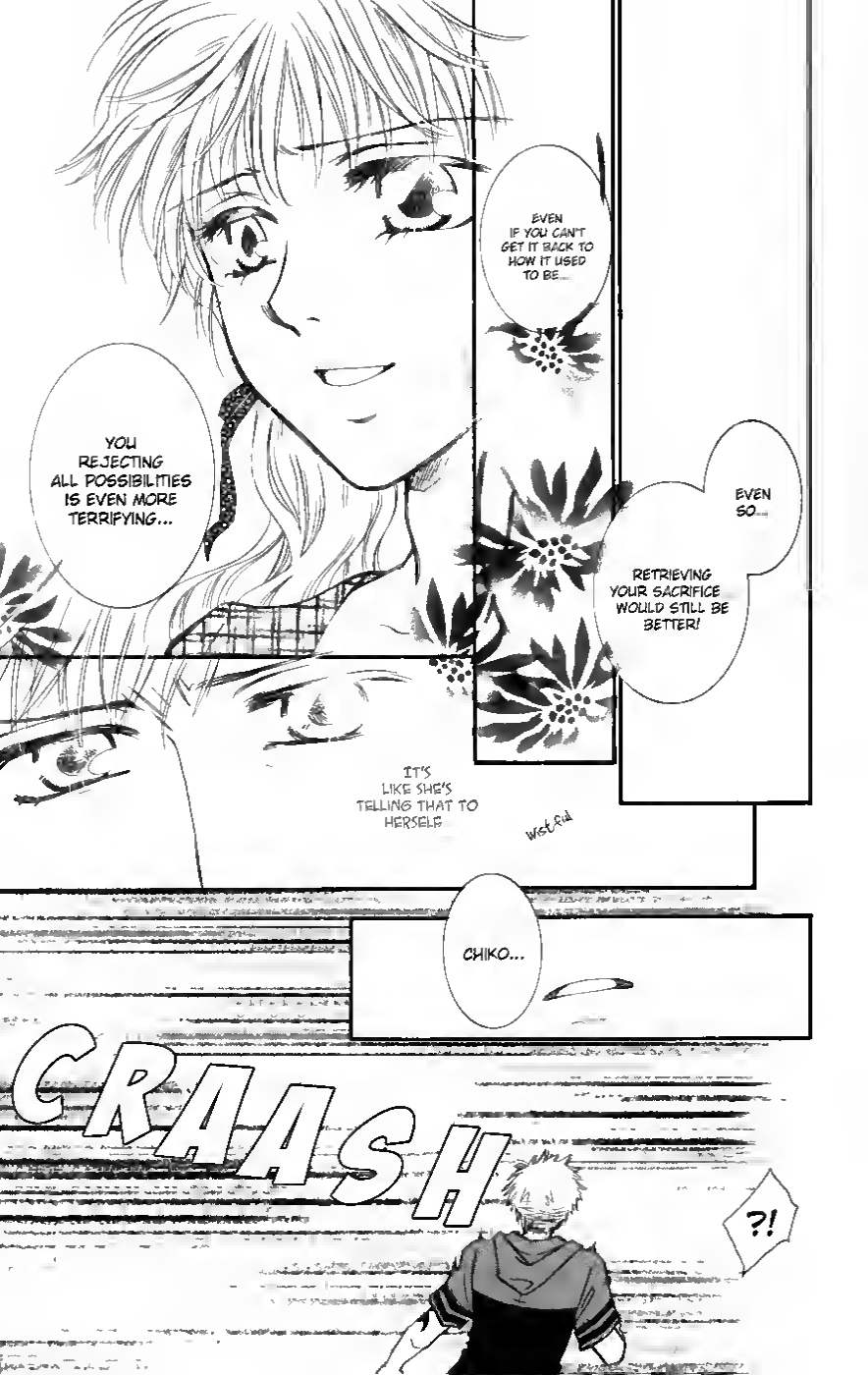
EVER SINCE THEN,
MY SIBLINGS BECAME TERRIFIED OF ME...
EVEN MY MOTHER DIDN'T WANT ME TO MEET THEM
BUT...
YOU DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE.
EVEN SO...


I'D LOST THE PLACE WHERE I BELONGED!
I ALWAYS FELT THAT...

I'LL NEVER FORGET...
BACK THEN...
THE HATRED WRITTEN ALL OVER MY MOTHER'S FACE...
THEIR EYES, FILLED WITH FEAR...
BEING LOOKED AT LIKE I WAS A DEMON...
WHAT I'VE SACRIFICED...
ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN 'TAKE' BACK...
clench

Bam
SAYING THESE KINDS OF DEPRESSING THINGS... CHIKO WOULD DEFINITELY...
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SCARED!
SHE'LL PROBABLY HIT ME...
COVER
.....
GASP
CRAP!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN...
Reach
AFRAID...

THE MORE IMPORTANT THE PERSON...
THE MORE IT CAN HURT.
HER WORDS...
SEEM TO BE...
IT'S ALSO SCARY...
TO HURT OTHERS.
Gasp
Whaaat?!
Tremble
Tremble
WHAT...?
WHA?
WH-
IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO BE AFRAID
IT'S EASY TO REMAIN CALM IF YOU'RE HATED BY PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW, BUT...
BEING REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE IS VERY PAINFUL.


EVEN IF YOU CAN'T GET IT BACK TO HOW IT USED TO BE...
YOU REJECTING ALL POSSIBILITIES IS EVEN MORE TERRIFYING...
EVEN SO...
RETRIEVING YOUR SACRIFICE WOULD STILL BE BETTER!
IT'S LIKE SHE'S TELLING THAT TO HERSELF
wisteria
CHIKO...
CRAASH
?!

WAAAH!
WAAAH!
Exhibition Hall
SKATER
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD HAVE LEARNED YOUR LESSON BY NOW...
YET THE BOTH OF YOU STILL CAME HERE TO GET IN MY WAY?
THOSE WORDS SHOULD BE COMING FROM ME!

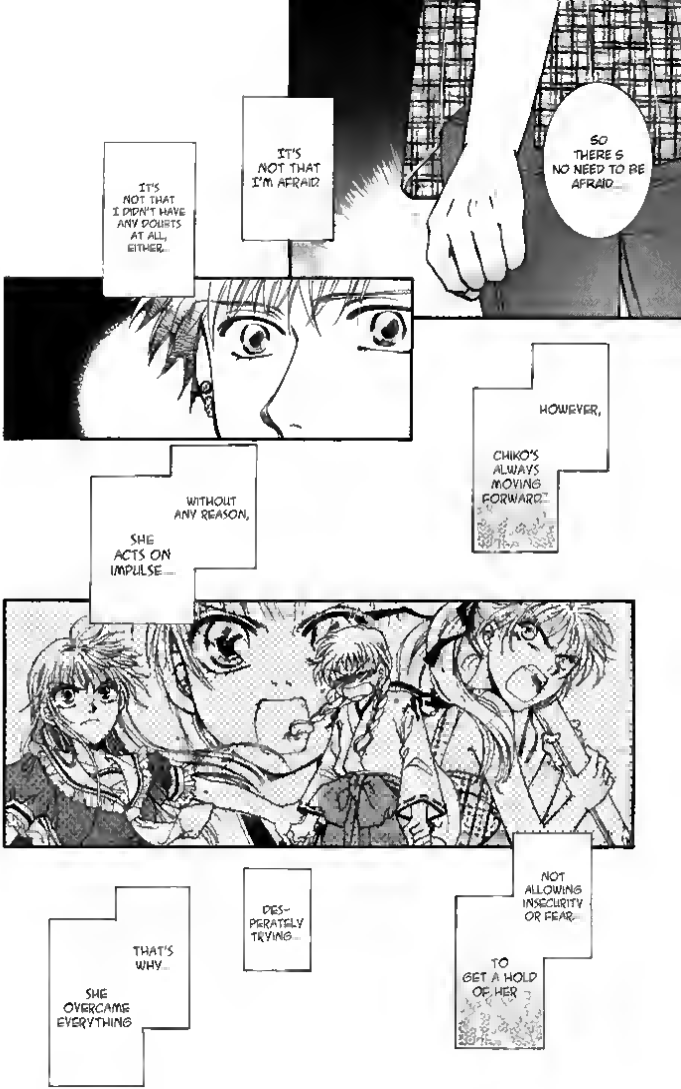
Sizzle
LET GO OF THAT KOSODE!
Dash
PLAYING TRICKS LIKE THAT IS USELESS...
CALM
IS THAT SO...?
SPLASH
?!
YANK
HURRY UP AND TAKE THE KOSODE AWAY!
Throw
CHIKO!

DON'T YOU...
Whump
UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
Step
!
YOU FOOL!
DON'T COME OVER HERE
TSUNA!

Turn
SHIRO...
GANE—
Grab
CLENCH
UNGH
RETURN THAT KOSODE TO ME!
IT...
BELONGS TO ME!

TSUNA...!
USE OUJIN ..
NO!
YOU'RE JUST UNWILLING TO USE IT!
YOU IDIOT!
I CAN'T USE IT IF THERE'S NO EARTH AROUND YOU KNOW THAT!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
WHAT IF I CAN'T CONTROL IT?
JUST LIKE MY YOUNGER SIBLINGS...
WHAT IF...
IF I WERE TO HARM OTHER PEOPLE AGAIN...
DON'T BE AFRAID...

I'M NOT AFRAID AT ALL!
SO YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY SAYING
GLOOM
EVEN IF YOU DID HURT ME IT'D ONLY BE A SUPERFICIAL WOUND!
You're quite the self-critic, aren't you?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE REASON YOU ENTERED THE CONTRACT WITH OUJIN...
WAS TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S CONNECTED TO A SAD ACCIDENT,
IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR FEELINGS OF WANTING TO PROTECT DISAPPEARED
IT MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME...
STILL YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO GO HOME SOMEDAY!
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GIVE UP...


SO THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID...
IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID
IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY DOUBTS AT ALL, EITHER...
HOWEVER, CHIKO'S ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD...
WITHOUT ANY REASON, SHE ACTS ON IMPULSE...
DES-PERATELY TRYING...
NOT ALLOWING INSECURITY OR FEAR TO GET A HOLD OF HER
THAT'S WHY... SHE OVERCAME EVERYTHING

BECAUSE YOUR OUJIN...
IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S LIKE THAT
IS A VERY GENTLE FORCE!
THAT'S WHY I'M IN LOVE WITH HER...

STOP PLAYING AROUND...
?!
WHAT?
WHAT IS ..
SAND..?
coarse
!
Flash!
?!
WHOOSH
HUH?

Ka-boom
UWAH!
I'M FINALLY GROUNDED!
Step
Rustle
"IF THERE'S NO EARTH..."
"THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME TO RETURN TO..."
THOSE ARE JUST EXCUSES!
THAT'S WHY...

WHEREVER MY FEET ARE STANDING,
THAT'S WHERE THE EARTH LIES!

I BECAME A USER OF THE THREAD IN ORDER TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO ME...
AH.....
TSUNA, YOU'RE AMAZING!
THE YIN THREAD OF OUJIN HAS BEEN...
THE GOLD COLOR THREADS
THERE'RE TWO OF THEM...?
IF I CAN'T EVEN PROTECT THE WOMAN I LOVE...
EVERYTHING WOULD BE MEANINGLESS!

HUH?
HUH???
WHAAT?!
U-UM... I
I UNDER-STAND...
YOU'RE THAT SHOCK-ED?
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS
IT'S OKAY!
TSUNA..
knock
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I SIMPLY ALSO WANT TO...
ACT LIKE THE HERO AND BE COOL!

I SHOULD CONGRATULATE THE BOTH OF YOU...
BEHAVING JUST AS I PREDICTED... I REALLY WANT TO THANK THE BOTH OF YOU!
!
WHAT'S THERE TO CONGRATULATE...?
THAT...
WHOOSH
TSUNA ?

TSUNA!!!
Fwoosh
AH...

WHERE ARE CHIKO AND THE OTHERS...?
AH
I'VE SENT THE BOTH OF THEM TO GET THE KOKODE! YOU SHOULD JUST RELAX

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? NADE-SHIKO-CHAN
YES

YOU IDIOT!
THE YIN THREADS SHOULDN'T BE USED!
THEY ARE...
AT THAT TIME
I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT AYA-NII WAS TRYING TO SAY!
THE TRUTH IS THAT...

THE YIN THREADS ARE...
A TRAP...

YIN-YOU

OFFRECORDING

HI EVERYONE! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR SHIBARIYA KOMACHI!
IT SEEMS EVERYONE HAS WAITED QUITE LONG FOR THE SEVENTH VOLUME!

24TH BINDING EVEN THOUGH THE BACKGROUND FOR THE STORY WAS KYOTO, THERE WERE A LOT OF INAPPROPRIATE IMAGES ON MY MIND, SO I DREW THE FAMOUS HOTSPOTS FOR OVERSEAS SCHOOL EXCURSIONS, INSTEAD REGARDING DRAWING THE FAMOUS MONUMENTS RELATED TO THE STORYLINE, AS WELL AS GOING TO KYOTO TO TAKE PHOTOS, ALL OF IT WAS DONE AFTER I FINISHED DRAWING THIS STORY IT SEEMS THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF DELAYED OPPORTUNITIES AH, THAT S JUST HOW LIFE IS

25TH BINDING THE PART WHERE AYA FOUND OUT THAT HE WAS A MASOCHIST (LAUGH), IS A PLOTLINE WHICH I VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ILLUSTRATE THE FUNNY MALE CHARACTER WEARING THE ALOHA SHIRT IN MY PREVIOUS WORK, JOOUSAMA NO INU (ELEVEN VOLUMES ON SALE), HAS FINALLY APPEARED ILLUSTRATING THIS COUPLE WAS REALLY INTERESTING, BECAUSE AS I WAS DRAWING, I SUDDENLY FOUND OUT THAT I REALLY LIKED DRAWING CHARACTERS WITH GOOD BRAINS OR GLASSES.

TSUNA S CHARACTER WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO BE SHIGEO S DIRECT SUBORDINATE IN THE FIRST VOLUME, THE RUMORS ABOUT HIM BEING A YAKUZA MEMBER WERE ACTUALLY BECAUSE HE WAS SEEN WITH SHIGEO THIS WAS HOW THE SCENARIO WAS SET UP I GUESS ALL OF YOU HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT AH, THAT'S JUST HOW LIFE IS

26TH BINDING NADESHIKO HAS PROSTHETIC LEGS, SO SHE CAN ACTUALLY STILL WALK A LITTLE I REALLY LOVED THE STORY REGARDING HER PAST AND HER CHILDHOOD JUST LIKE THE CHILDHOOD SIDE-STORIES OF CHARACTERS DRAWN BY OTHER MANGAKA, I ORIGINALLY WANTED TO ILLUSTRATE THE PART WHERE AYA WAS OFTEN MISTAKEN AS A GIRL IT S A PITY THAT I DIDN T HAVE THE ADDITIONAL TIME TO DO SO AH, THAT S JUST HOW LIFE IS

27TH BINDING TSUNA HAD A TOUGH LIFE HE'S ACTUALLY VERY HARD WORKING AND HAS HIGH POTENTIAL AS AN ONMYOUJI! HIM BEING NAIVE AND FEARFUL ABOUT-HAPPINESS, COMPARED TO THIS MASOCHIST WHO ONLY KNOWS HOW TO USE HIS BRAINS AND A HUSBAND WHO ONLY HAS INTEREST IN HIS WIFE SHOWS THAT, IN BETWEEN ALL THESE STRANGE ADULTS, HE S THE ONLY ONE WHO BEHAVES NORMALLY EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE BEST MALE CHARACTER AMONG THOSE IN THE MUSUBIYA, IT'S REGRETFUL THAT HE DID NOT GET WHAT HE DESERVED MY ASSISTANTS WERE ALSO SAYING THINGS LIKE, "WOULDN T IT BE GREAT IF THE PERSON CHIKO LIKED WAS TSUNA ? ACTUALLY, I FEEL THE SAME WAY (LAUGH) AH, THAT S JUST HOW LIFE IS

GRADUALLY, IT SEEMS THAT CHIKO HAS REACHED THE PEAK OF HER POPULARITY WITH THE GUYS, HUH? OR SHOULD WE SAY THAT THE PREMONITION OF DEATH HAS COME TRUE? I SINCERELY HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU ENJOYED THE EXCITING STORYLINE IN VOLUME SEVEN I'D BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU COULD TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE STORY.

CURRENTLY, THE NEXT CHAPTER IS SUPPOSED TO HOLD THE CLIMAX OF THE ENTIRE STORY WHAT IS IORI S TRUE IDENTITY? WHERE DID AKEO GO? HOW DOES CHIKO S LOVE STORY END? (DOES IT EVEN EXIST?) I M REALLY FEELING A LITTLE EXCITED AND RESTLESS ABOUT IT (LAUGH) I LL DEFINITELY DO MY BEST TO SATISFY ALL OF YOU! THERE S ALSO A SHORT STORY AFTERWARDS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ALL OF YOU TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING SHIBARIYA KOMACHI! I APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

I HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY, EVERYDAY!

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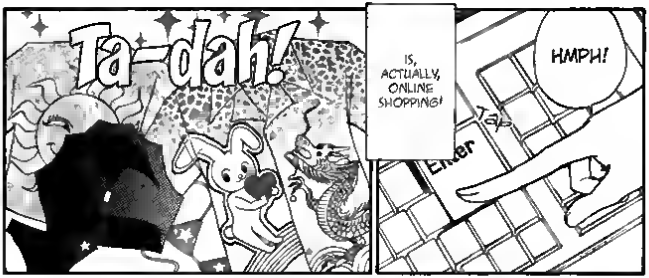
I LOOK FORWARD
TO HEARING FROM YOU ♥

2009 Mick

MU CHAN HI-TAN TAKITAKI RIU A, NORIKO T TOMOKO N
KAMINAN M YAMAMOTO, C ITAKA, MY FAMILY and YOU!!

WHEN THIS HAPPENS MADOSHINO-SAN'S SOLUTION TO RELIEVE HER STRESS
Grit
SUDDENLY, I FEEL VERY IRRITATED!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...?


Ta-dah!
IS, ACTUALLY, ONLINE SHOPPING!
HMPH!
Enter

IT'S ACTUALLY ALL ABOUT TRANSFERRING THE STRESS TO ANOTHER PERSON!
I want to see you wear it ♡
I THINK IT'S VERY SUITABLE FOR SHIGEO DARLING TO WEAR! ♡
HUH...?
HUH?
THIS...
SOMEONE WHO ORIGINALLY HAS GOOD TASTE

IS ACTUALLY AN IDIOT WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRON CS.
Flinch
Is that a mouse...?
Beep
Beep
Beep
Hum
ON THE OTHER HAND THIS GUY...

縛り屋小町シリーズ
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YES, AND THEY'RE CALLED TRANSCENDENCE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH WORK THEY PUT INTO EACH CHAPTER!
...SO THE PAGES DON'T COME OUT OF THIN AIR?
THERE'S A GROUP DOING ALL THE WORK?
WHAT!?
WHERE ELSE DO YOU THINK THESE SCANS ARE COMING FROM!?
WELL, THEY ALWAYS NEED NEW STAFF
JOIN THEM!
...I FEEL SO BAD...
TRANSLATORS, PROOFREADERS, EDITORS, QCS...
I NEVER REALISED HOW MUCH WORK IT TAKES...
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